



COMMISSION ON AGING

October 11, 2022

Anita Vassallo Director
21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 310
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Montgomery County Public Libraries

Director Vassallo:

Congratulations on developing a strategic plan for the Montgomery County public libraries. The libraries serve a great purpose for our County, and it is wonderful that you are identifying goals to keep them in touch with the public's needs for the next three years.

The Commission on Aging would be most interested to learn what goals have been developed in the strategic plan to serve the older adults in our County. We are concerned that we do not see any specific goals or objectives that help to enrich and support these individuals. As you are probably aware, by 2040 the Montgomery County older adult population (age 60+) is projected to increase from the current number of 233,592 to 315,666 – an increase of 35 percent. Also, life expectancy is increasing, and the population of older adults age 85+ is expected to increase by approximately 77 percent between 2019 and 2030.

The library often serves as a prime location for older adults to obtain important information about County and other services, and it allows them to obtain books and other reading materials that they do not have access to in their community. Libraries also serve to help with social isolation as they are safe environments that older adults can visit. In addition, many older adults have limited access to technology and could benefit from Internet access and the assistance they might receive navigating the digital world.

We would like to thank the libraries for having a dedicated webpage for older adults (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/for-you/seniors.html>). It is a wonderful resource for individuals to learn about library resources such as book clubs, computer help, tax preparation, music performances, and health and wellness programs.

We look forward to hearing from you and learning more about the strategic plan's objectives for serving the needs of our County's older adults. We would be happy to work with you to develop one or more goals that directly address the older adult community.

Thank you for your service to our County.

Department of Health and Human Services

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www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Sincerely,

Barbara Selter

Barbara Selter, Chair
Montgomery County Commission on Aging

Cc: Montgomery County Council Members:

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