The Area Office on Aging’s work serving older northwest Ohioans has never been more important than now. Whether you are in need of help or you want to help, we want to connect with you.

During these challenging times when the Coronavirus is negatively impacting the lives of all of us, this is especially true for older adults. People age 65+ are more susceptible to the Coronavirus and have a higher mortality rate, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We understand the impact of this crisis on older adults – many are anxious and afraid to go out on their own to get the food, medicine and other supplies they need. While our offices and senior centers have been closed to the public due to the guidance of the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health and local Health Departments, we still have a core group of staff and volunteers who are working hard to meet the needs of older northwest Ohioans.

Area Office on Aging and senior center staff have been calling the older northwest Ohioans we serve to determine if anyone needs home-delivered meals, medical supplies, personal supplies or any other assistance during this period of closure.

Our staff, providers and volunteers are on the front line of providing these needed services to older adults in our community. We are especially focused on making sure that the critical services of adult day, care coordination, escort transportation, home-delivered meals and personal care continue. Some of our work includes providing:

- Over 6,000 older northwest Ohioans a week with home-delivered meals and/or grab and go meals.
- Over 3,000 frail, homebound older adults with case management and/or essential services such as help with bathing and dressing.
- Wellness checks on thousands of older adults who are isolated during this pandemic.

Here is the latest information about AOoA operations:

- Contact us at 419.382.0624 or by email at adrn@areaofficeonaging.com or visit us online at www.areaofficeonaging.com for information, or if you know of someone who is in need of our assistance, or for details about service availability.
- Home health agencies will continue to provide services, while reducing unnecessary face-to-face contact, and eliminating (for the present time) the signature requirement for many services.
- Medical transportation will be available to the extent our capacity is available. TARTA is providing free transportation during this time.
- Those in Lucas County needing home-delivered meals, can contact our meal provider, Valley, at 419-382-5791.

We need your help to continue to support our older adults through the coronavirus pandemic. Call or text message older adults you know to check in on them to see what they need and to let them know you care about them. Help take care of the needs of older adults in our community by calling us at 419-382-0624 or e-mailing us at volunteers@areaofficeonaging.com to sign-up for one of the various opportunities and/or make a tax-deductible donation to the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio to help us continue providing these critical services to all our older adults at: https://areaofficeonaging.com/donate

We are dedicated to promoting the health, well-being and safety of older adults, persons with disabilities and family caregivers. Especially now, it’s important to be aware of one another’s needs, and remember that we are all one community. We’ll get through these challenging times – together.