

# NEWS RELEASE

**Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## **County celebrates Older Americans Month, Age-Friendly programming**

**SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**—County Executive Ilene Shapiro and County Council passed a resolution this week recognizing May as Older Americans Month and celebrating older residents as a vital part of a vibrant, thriving Summit County. The resolution also marked the work of the County Executive’s Office in launching the Age-Friendly Accreditation last year and the investment of \$8 million over two years toward the Aging In Place Program with Direction Home Akron Canton.

In early 2023, the County Executive’s Office partnered with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Akron, VANTAGE Aging, the Akron Zoo, Direction Home Akron Canton, and the City of Akron to launch the Age-Friendly Accreditation Program. The program was developed through Age-Friendly Akron-Summit and since its inception and piloting at the Akron Zoo, the program has seen over two dozen businesses and institutions accredited and is now the second largest program in the United States across 92 BBBs. As our population ages, it is imperative that Summit County be a place where people of all ages can live vibrant lives and engage with businesses, charities, and institutions across sectors. Businesses interested in becoming Age-Friendly can apply at [bbb.org/AgeFriendly-Akron-Summit](https://bbb.org/AgeFriendly-Akron-Summit).

In 2024, County Executive Shapiro announced \$4 million in the first round of funding for the Aging In Place Program administered by Direction Home Akron Canton. Aging In Place offers assistance with home care, home repairs and digital education. Services may include meal deliveries, the installation of a grab bar, a new tablet, or training in how to set up an email and more. Interested residents can apply at [www.dahd.org/refer](https://www.dahd.org/refer) or call 877-770-5558.

“The future of Summit County is what we make it,” said Executive Shapiro, “By investing in inclusive, accessible businesses and healthy, connected households, we are setting up our older residents and our communities up for success. We look forward to continuing our Age-Friendly work in the years to come.”

Residents or organizations interested in getting involved with Age-Friendly can learn more at [co.summitoh.net/pages/AgeFriendly](https://co.summitoh.net/pages/AgeFriendly).

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