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## **Vermont Launches a New State Plan on Aging with Goals for Health, Equity, and Justice in Aging**

The Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) is proud to announce the launch of the 2019-2022 Vermont State Plan on Aging, a guiding document that outlines how the State of Vermont and our network of Area Agencies on Aging and service providers will work to meet the changing needs of older Vermonters over the next four years. The new plan, just approved by the federal Administration for Community Living, can be found here: <http://asd.vermont.gov/resources/state-plans>.

The plan provides a broad overview of demographic changes and environmental context, includes results of a statewide needs assessment, and hones three major goal areas into key measurable objectives. The three goals focus on 1) supporting healthy aging for all, 2) strengthening core Older Americans Act services for those in greatest need, and 3) bolstering our elder justice system to protect against abuse.

“We know that Vermonters want to age well,” says DAIL Commissioner Monica Caserta Hutt, “And with one in five Vermonters now over the age of 60, it is critical that we work together – state government, service providers, businesses and local communities - to ensure that we all have what we need at different stages of aging. The State Plan on Aging provides a blueprint for DAIL and our partners to meet this goal.”

“At the Area Agencies on Aging, we work with older Vermonters every day and recognize the importance of collaboration to meet a growing complexity of needs among those we serve,” says Janet Hunt, Executive Director of the Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging (V4A). “We are committed to working with DAIL and partners across our communities to provide older Vermonters and their families and caregivers with the kind of care and guidance that’s right for them.”

Vermont faces many challenges, including a workforce shortage, and high rates of falls, chronic disease, and Alzheimer’s; however, key opportunities also exist to capitalize on the wisdom and experience of our mature population, to engage older Vermonters in healthy aging, and to be creative and innovative within our communities where people of all ages are passionate about protecting and helping one another. The State Plan on Aging helps guide us toward these essential strategies.

DAIL wishes to thank the many agencies, partners, and older Vermonters who contributed to the successful development of the State Plan on Aging. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships and collaborations as the work now begins to move the plan forward from vision to reality.

***About the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living (DAIL):***

*Our mission is to make Vermont the best state in which to grow old or to live with a disability - with dignity, respect and independence.*

<http://dail.vermont.gov/>

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