



SERVING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1968

AGING WITH DISABILITY

**Where Columbus and Salt Lake County Aging &
Adult Services intersect**

A partnership discussion for the
Salt Lake County Council on Aging

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Columbus Community Center



Aging and disability systems increasingly serve the same people

Columbus

Long-term supports
Accessible homes
Supportive Services
Day activities
Community participation

SHARED OUTCOME

**Independence, dignity
and belonging**

Aging & Adult Services

Nutrition
Transportation
Healthy aging
Caregiver support

The opportunity is to connect systems before a crisis forces a transition.

Columbus supports adults across home, community, and work



Residential Services

Homes, apartments, supported living



Activities

Home- and community-based day services



Employment

NextWork, supported employment, business services



Stability

Accessible housing and long-term support

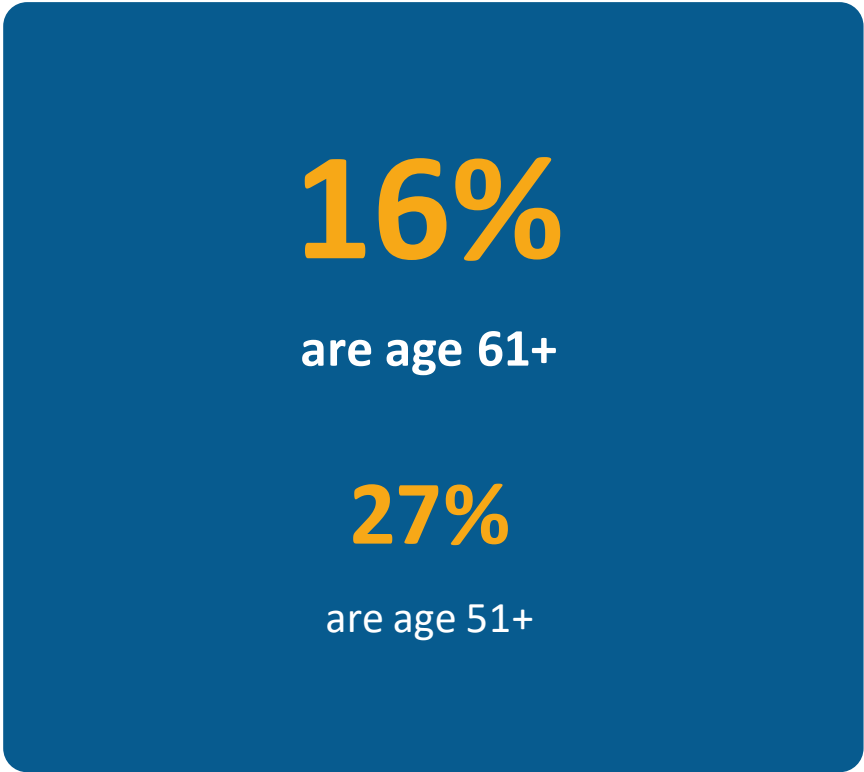
Columbus already has trusted relationships, staff, and places where aging supports can reach people.

Major funding sources sustain Columbus services and employment

DSPD	Residential • Activities • Supported Employment
Vocational Rehabilitation	Job placement
Federal set-aside contracts	Grounds • Secure shredding
State set-aside contracts	Janitorial • Secure shredding
Intermountain Health	Janitorial • Grounds • Shredding • Laundry • Production

These relationships combine public funding, mission-driven contracting, and employment pathways for people with disabilities.

More than one in four Columbus clients is already 51 or older



Aging is not a future issue for Columbus—it is a current service-planning issue.

Today, adults over 60 are concentrated in two Columbus programs

PROGRAM	PEOPLE OVER 60
Residential Services	YES
Activities / Day Program	YES
NextWork Autism Academy	0
Supported Employment	0
Contract Services	0

This creates a clear entry point: begin with Residential and Activities, then plan earlier for people approaching retirement.

Aging can add new risks to an already complex support picture

Health & mobility

Falls, chronic conditions, sensory change, medication routines

Caregiver transitions

Parents and siblings age too; plans may be informal or incomplete

Connection & purpose

Retirement or reduced activity can shrink social networks

Navigation

Medicare, Medicaid, transportation, nutrition, housing, legal help

The best response is coordinated, accessible, and person-centered—not a handoff between disconnected programs.

County programs align with needs visible at Columbus

Columbus need	County connection
Healthy aging & fall prevention	Evidence-based classes, exercise, chronic-condition education
Medical transportation	Rides for Wellness for eligible adults age 60+
Nutrition & isolation	Meals on Wheels and senior-center meals
Caregiver strain & succession	Education, support groups, consultation, limited respite
Aging in place	Case management and in-home services
Benefits, housing & rights	Medicare options, outreach, housing liaison, legal and ombudsman support

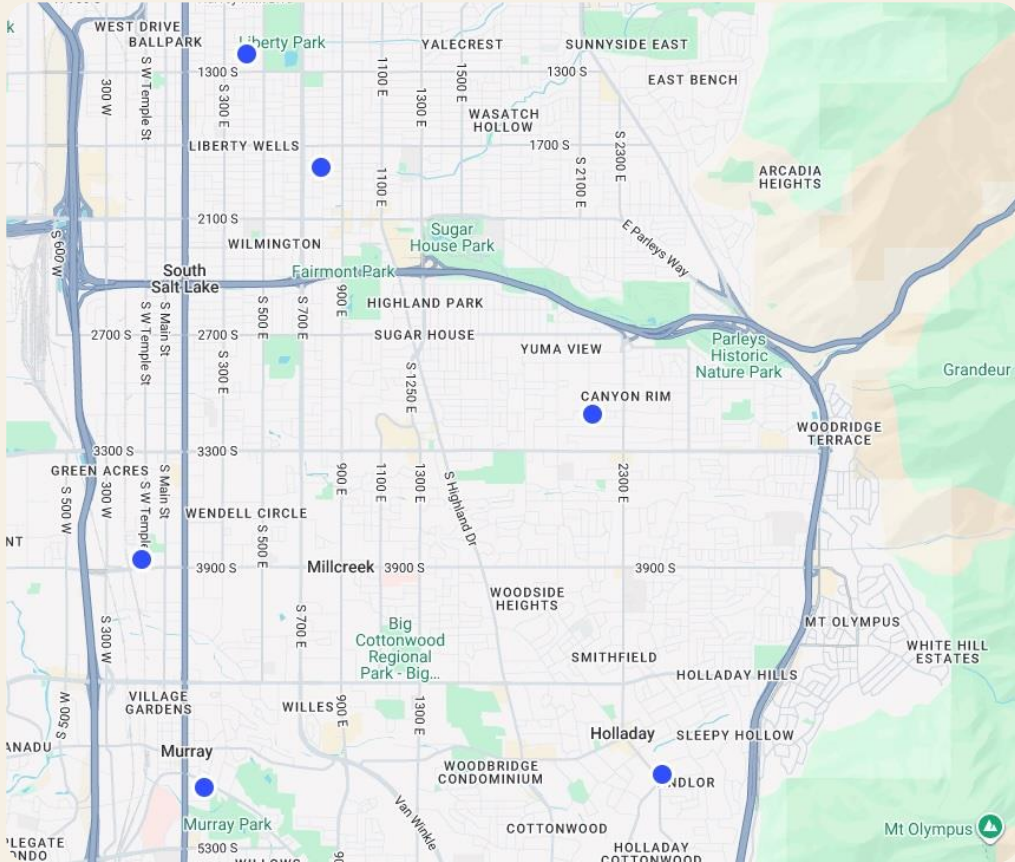
A two-way referral pathway benefits both systems

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Share residential openings | Columbus notifies County staff when residential vacancies or Activities capacity is available |
| 2 | Identify potential referrals | County refers older adults with disabilities who may benefit from Columbus supports |
| 3 | Confirm fit together | Assess eligibility, personal choice, accessibility, and service fit before placement |
| 4 | Navigate higher-acuity needs | County helps when aging clients' health needs exceed Columbus's capabilities |
| 5 | Coordinate transitions | Use a closed-loop handoff so clients and families do not fall between systems |

Five cross-service opportunities

1	Warm referral pathway	Named contacts, accessible intake, closed-loop follow-up
2	On-site healthy aging	Adapt selected fall-prevention, nutrition, and chronic-condition classes
3	Caregiver planning	Offer caregiver education and future-planning sessions to families
4	Transportation + nutrition	Screen eligible residents for rides, meals, and center participation
5	Staff cross-training	Teach both systems how disability and aging supports intersect

Residential sites create a place-based partnership platform



Start where older adults already live and participate

- Coordinate outreach by residential site and nearby County resources
- Bring selected services to familiar Columbus settings
- Use accessible communication and supported decision-making
- Identify transportation and caregiver barriers by location

The residential footprint creates multiple opportunities to connect people with nearby County aging resources.

Potential challenges require thoughtful planning

Expanding at the intersection of aging and disability may create opportunity—but it also changes what Columbus must be prepared to deliver.

01

Licensing & compliance

Senior-care services may introduce new regulations, audits and documentation requirements.

02

Increasing medical complexity

Some clients' health needs may eventually exceed Columbus's current capabilities.

03

Specialized workforce

Expanded services could require additional clinical expertise, training and already-scarce direct-care staff.

04

Funding & reimbursement

New services must have sustainable reimbursement and cover their full operational cost.

05

Strategic focus

Growth should complement Columbus's mission and capacity—not overextend the organization.

Best next step: Explore, assess and design

THE PARTNERSHIP QUESTION

How can Columbus and Salt Lake County work together to help our aging population live with greater health, choice, and connection?

1

DESIGNATE

Liaison between
organizations

2

MAP

County services to
Columbus services

3

Assess

Assess the
complimentary services

4

Propose

Propose a scalable
partnership model

Columbus brings trusted relationships and places. | The County brings specialized aging expertise and services.



www.columbusseves.org