

# INFRASTRUCTURE FOR AGING SERVICES

Strengthening providers and the network in the St. Louis region for the opportunities and challenges ahead

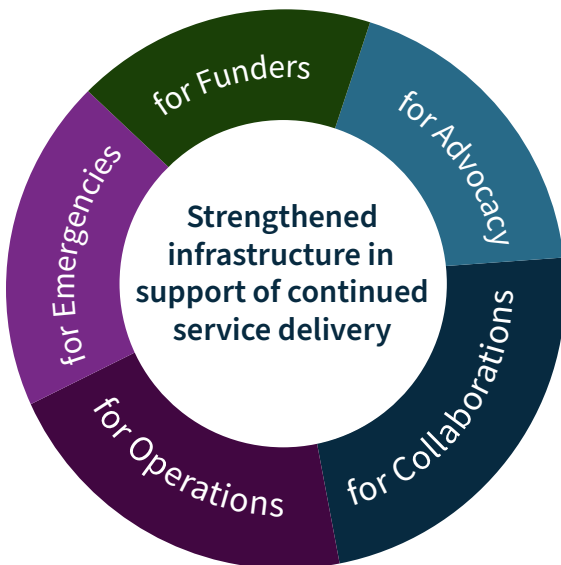
## A system of support under increasing pressure

Everyone in our region is impacted by the experiences of older adults — our friends, neighbors, colleagues, employees, family members, and someday, ourselves. To continue to meet their needs as they age, older adults often seek support from loved ones and community resources – the network of service providers across St. Louis city and county that help people age with dignity.

For many in our communities, these are crucial services. Yet for decades, the systems that support older adults and their families in the St. Louis area have been under pressure, including from stagnant public funding.

The aging services network is strongest when providers are able to create a robust tapestry of support for older adults and their families. But over time, these pressures have frayed the network's strength, as shown in the illustration. Most recently, policy changes and funding reductions at the federal and state level have significantly increased this pressure.

Without adaptation across the network and in the way services are delivered, gaps will continue to widen and too many older adults will be without the support needed to remain active, connected, and secure.



## Co-design to develop the paths forward

To identify approaches for systems-wide adaptation, the St. Louis City Senior Fund and Marillac Mission Fund supported a robust co-design process July-October 2025. Guided by a dedicated Design Team, this effort was shaped by over 90 advocates, direct service providers, funders, and board members from more than 60 different organizations. Throughout the process, people reflected together on the strengths and lessons learned from many years of creativity and shared purpose. They contributed their ideas, provided feedback, and helped shape this vision for a more resilient aging services system.

This led to **opportunities for shared infrastructure to strengthen the network** building on the network's greatest assets—collaboration, resilience, and trust—and to invite more people, organizations, and institutions to see themselves as part of the support systems for older adults and their families.

Now is the time to deepen our commitment to each other and work proactively to strengthen the aging services network so it can continue to ensure older adults and their families have access to the services they need in our communities. Join us!

**Find out more:**

Email [info@stlseniorfund.org](mailto:info@stlseniorfund.org) for the complete report.

## WE ENVISION...

An aging-friendly region, where older adults and their families are able to access the services and supports they need from a robust and dynamic aging services network, made up of many diverse, trusted, and local service providers.

To live this vision, even during this time of reduced external resources, we need:

Shared infrastructure for the aging services network that allows providers to continue to do the work of service delivery, more efficiently, more resiliently, and with more support from the network.

*We envision... Funders who support aging services are able to coordinate with each other to quickly understand and meet needs.*

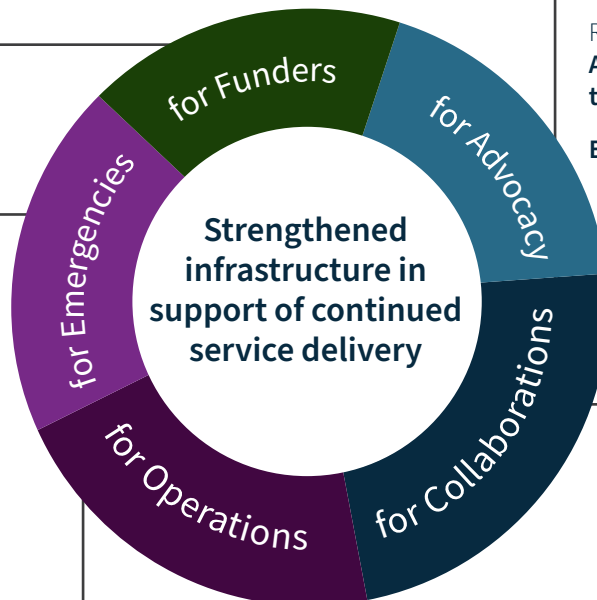
Recommendation: **Regional Funder Coordination & Targeted Leadership**

*We envision... Organizations, funders, policy makers, and individuals across the St. Louis region understand the importance of, and contribute to creating, an aging-friendly community.*

Recommendations:  
**Awareness Campaign Focused on the St. Louis Region**  
**Expanded Advocacy to Lawmakers**

*We envision... A robust infrastructure for coordinating providers and other stakeholders to ensure that older adults and their families are supported during community crises.*

Recommendation:  
**Emergency Response Teams Infrastructure for Older Adults**



*We envision... Aging services providers can assess, cultivate, and create a wide range of beneficial collaborations to support their work.*

Recommendation:  
**Collaboration Cultivation Assistance**

*We envision... Aging services providers have sustainable operations that support their mission and ensure ongoing services are available to older adults and their families.*

Recommendations:  
**Revenue Diversification Support**  
**Short-Term, Intensive Operations Support**

With this support, providers can continue to lead with their expertise – exploring creative ways to meet individual and community needs, and choosing paths for their organizations that best fit their strengths and the new contexts.