BEST PRACTICES: An Overview

The best practices contained on this site were developed by gathering the latest national research on the most effective caregiver supports and pairing it with information from caregiver surveys collected by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B and the results of focus groups which were convened for caregivers service providers. The combined collection of preliminary information provided a framework for the development of eight assessment domains, as listed below.

Once these domains were identified and questions were designed to assess the domains, the Area Agency on Aging 1-B invited older adult services professionals working across the State of Michigan to test the assessment and provide valuable input on its continuing development. Those who lended input included people working in area agencies on aging, in city and county senior and health services offices, in commissions on aging, in dementia programs, and more. They served rural areas such as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, densely populated cities like Detroit, and suburban and farming communities, in order to provide the most complete and varied perspectives on the assessment tool and best practices for supporting caregivers.

Once this process was complete, another round of research was collected with a focus on best practices in the field that related to each domain assessed. The research from this work was summarized and is shared on each of the best practice pages.

A complete list of all research cited in both the development of the assessment and in the development of best practices is available.

In addition to the domain-specific resources and best practices, we compiled general resources that are available to support the development of caregiver services and that are not specific to any of the domains below, including general aging and caregiving resources that are available statewide in Michigan, available nationally, resources that are illness-specific and resources that are community-specific.

We invite you to choose any of the domains listed below to learn more about how the section was assessed, what the research currently says about the section, and links to additional resources and sample programs in operation.

1. In-Home Services & Respite
2. Care Management Support
3. Caregiver Training & Education
4. Caregiver Social/Emotional Supports
5. Safe/Affordable/Accessible Housing
6. Financial & Legal Information
7. Transportation
8. Healthcare Services