



## Advance Long, Healthy, and Productive Lives

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### The Issue

Population aging has created new challenges and opportunities for individuals and society. These challenges include outdated and age segregated social institutions, along with growing economic insecurity and health inequity; as well as undermine the ability for older adults to lead productive and meaningful lives.

### Societal Goal

Over the course of a lifetime, we will create opportunities to acquire new knowledge and skills and to utilize talents and resources in a variety of paid and unpaid roles that maximize health, foster economic security, provide purpose in life, and enrich families and communities.

### A Decade of Work

Over the next ten years, researchers, practitioners and policymakers can engage in a variety of activities that will advance this Grand Challenge and ignite social work achievements, including efforts to:

- Scale up new innovations and programs that facilitate older adults in work, caregiving, and volunteer opportunities.
- Create flexible and transitional employment arrangements through tax incentives and workplace policies.
- Provide financial support to caregivers through the expansion of paid family and medical leave and legislative efforts such as the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act and Social Security Caregiver Credit Act.
- Design civic service programs that are available in every community, flexible to different demographics, and desirable through the provision of financial incentives.
- Increase civic service opportunities that would provide supplemental and alternative pathways for a stable life stage transition for individuals regardless of age.
- Strengthen scientific knowledge on the benefits of productive aging and diverse forms of work, caregiving and service opportunities.
- Reduce the widespread discrimination and stereotyping about older adults to increase productive engagement and age-integration.
- Test and scale up intergenerational programs that have the potential to alter health and economic trajectories of children, youth and older adults.

# Advance Long and Productive Lives

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## Resources

- Lough, B.J., Sherraden, M.S., Moore A.M, Sherraden, M., Pritzker, S. (2017). Productive engagement early in life: Civic and volunteer service as a pathway to development (Grand Challenges for Social Work initiative Working Paper No. 23). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.
- Morrow-Howell, N., Gonzales, E., Matz-Costa, C., Greenfield, E. A. (2015). *Increasing productive engagement in later life* (Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative Working Paper No. 8). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.
- Morrow-Howell, N., Gonzales, E., & Matz-Costa, C. (2016, September). [Policy recommendations for meeting the Grand Challenge to Advance Long and Productive Lives](#) (Grand Challenges for Social Work Initiative Policy Brief No. 4). Cleveland, OH: American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare.
- [Policy action statement to advance long and productive lives](#). Actions target expansion of paid family and medical leave.
- Gonzales, E., Matz-Costa, C. & Morrow-Howell, N. (2015). White House Conference on Aging 2015. Increasing Opportunities for the Productive Engagement of Older Adults: A Response to Population Aging. *The Gerontologist*, Special Issue for the Policy Forum. doi:10.1093/geront/gnu176

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## Get involved!

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