

Age Strong Commission

City Council Hearing - May 22, 2025



Mayor Michelle Wu

Age Strong Presenters:

- ★ **Emily Shea**, Commissioner
- ★ **Karine Querido**, Deputy Commissioner
- ★ **Myles Gerraty**, Senior Director of Finance and Administration

We invite you to celebrate Older Americans Month with us!

- ★ **Vision:** A Boston that embraces aging
- ★ **Mission:** Enhance the lives of Boston residents age 55+ through meaningful programs, accessible resources, and strong community connections
- ★ **Core Belief:** Getting older should be a time for connection, dignity, and opportunity

- ★ 100+ dedicated Age Strong staff from diverse backgrounds that reflect the communities we serve.
- ★ We take pride in and are committed to fostering an inclusive and representative workforce.

Age Strong Bilingual/Multilingual Team Speaks 11+ Languages:

- ★ Arabic
- ★ Cabo Verdean Creole
- ★ Chinese (Cantonese)
- ★ Chinese (Mandarin)
- ★ Chinese (Taishanese)
- ★ French
- ★ Haitian Creole
- ★ Italian
- ★ Portuguese
- ★ Spanish
- ★ Vietnamese

Who Age Strong Serves

Boston Residents Age 60+



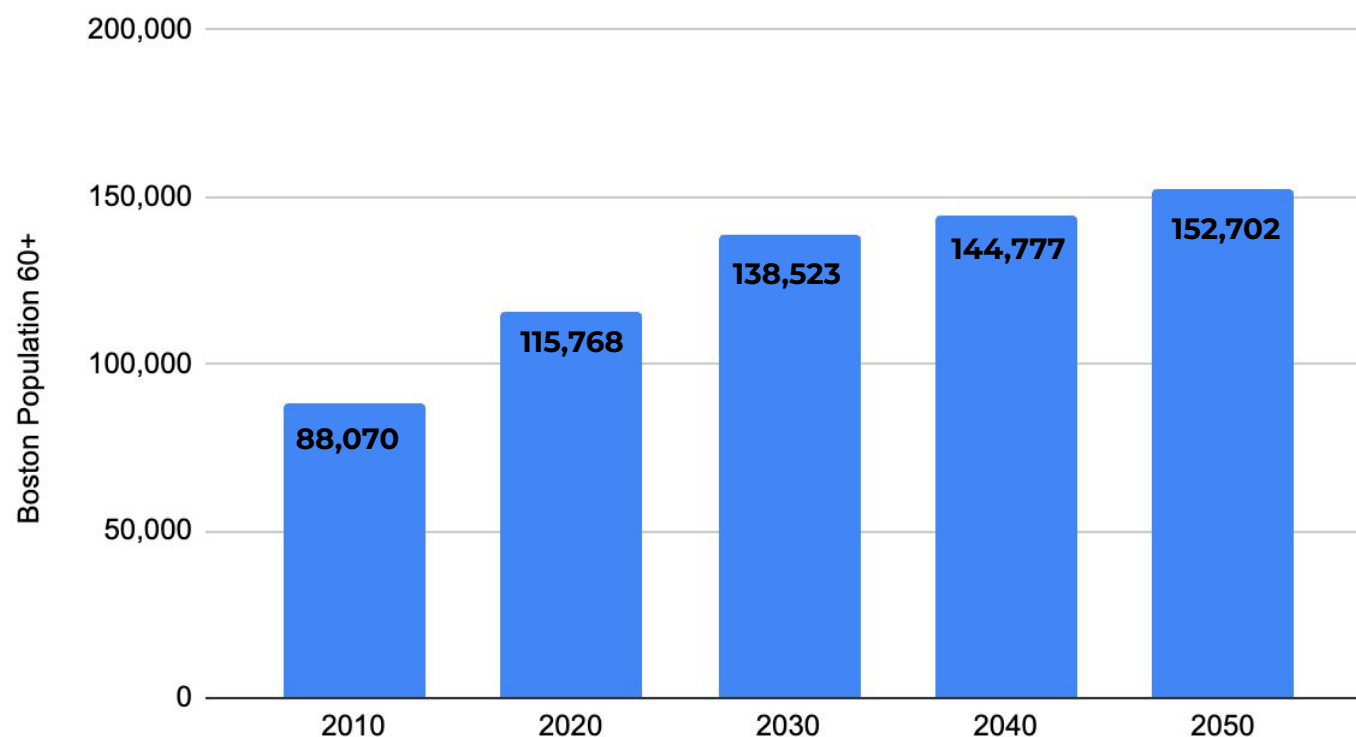
Boston's older adult population is growing rapidly and becoming more diverse

2010-2025 - 48% growth in 60+ population (42,000 more older residents)

By 2050, it is projected that one in five Boston residents will be an older adult

Please note: 2025-2050 numbers are BPDA Interim projections. Subject to revision.

Growth Projection: Boston Population 60+



Age Strong's Core Services and Initiatives:



- ★ **Transportation:** Age Strong Shuttle and Taxi Coupon program to provide more mobility.
- ★ **Benefits Enrollment:** Application assistance with Medicare/MassHealth, SNAP, fuel, property tax exemptions, and more.
- ★ **Community Engagement:** Hundreds of events/programs, senior centers and volunteer opportunities
- ★ **Strengthening Aging Service Systems:** Grantmaking, Behavioral Health Initiatives, Age and Dementia-Friendly Programs
- ★ **Information Access:** Print, in-person, social media, email, culturally and linguistically appropriate

- ★ We support diverse organizations through funding opportunities
- ★ In FY25 we awarded:
 - \$1 M to 50+ community organizations through the Expanding Engagement and Behavioral Health grants (operating funds)
 - \$7.4 M to 26 organizations for Older Americans Act priorities (federal and state funds)
- ★ Adding operating fund grants allows for increased access for grassroots and organizations supporting culturally specific groups

Organizations Funded (not exhaustive)

- ★ 1975: A Vietnamese Diaspora Commemoration Initiative
- ★ La Alianza Hispana, Inc.
- ★ Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
- ★ Castle Square Tenants Organization, Inc.
- ★ Cape Verdean Community UNIDO
- ★ Community Centers of Jamaica Plain
- ★ Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation
- ★ Ethos
- ★ Fenway Civic Association
- ★ Four Corners Main Streets
- ★ Friends of the Codman Square Library Branch
- ★ Friends of the Rafael Hernández School, Inc.
- ★ Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center
- ★ LGBTQ Senior Housing, Inc.
- ★ Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Inc.
- ★ Mission Hill Health Movement
- ★ North End Community Health Committee Inc.
- ★ Shaloh School Oholei Torah
- ★ Veronica Robles Cultural Center
- ★ West Broadway Task Force, Inc.



Expanded Programming Access

6

New Programming sites
in 5 Neighborhoods

3,000+

Hours of programming (300%
increase from FY24)

Improved Economic Security and Strengthened Social Safety Net

20

Medicare & MassHealth
Open Enrollment
Events

19

Benefit Application
Clinics

\$1 Million+

Benefits unlocked for
1,000+ older adults

- ★ Completed the Boston Older Adult Needs Assessment and Area Plan, including 22 Community listening sessions and focus groups
- ★ Surpassed 100+ local businesses certified as Age-Friendly
- ★ Connected 367 older adults with volunteer opportunities and established 20 new Property Tax Workoff Sites
- ★ Educated a new cohort of older adults on local policy and advocacy, building new community leaders

★ **Launch Community Ambassador Program**

- Hire 15 older adults to help build bridges with diverse communities

★ **Improve Transportation Access**

- Introducing a transportation access plan
- Modernize the Taxi Coupon Program
- Expand Age Strong Shuttle Services
- Expand on the successful rideshare pilot

★ **Increase Presence Across Neighborhoods**

- Office Hours
- Community Resource Events/Application Clinics
- Expand Programming Offerings and regularly activated spaces

THANK YOU
