



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor

Feb. 5, 2024

Utah's population will soon exceed 4 million people. People who are 65 and older make up about 15% of the total population, and in the near future, are expected to represent one in every five residents. This demographic trend impacts our households, culture, economy, environment, and increasing needs of older adults.

Utah benefits from the wisdom and contributions of our older adults, and we recognize that the next generation will be more diverse, live longer, and desire to make meaningful contributions to our great state. If we don't have a meaningful plan for an aging population, we expect to see an increase in the struggles for meaningful employment, affordable housing, food and financial security, and access to quality health care.

These trends are not new, but without deliberate planning, the challenges will accelerate and overshadow the opportunities that should be available to everyone. The purpose of the strategic plan for intelligent aging is to make sure Utahns are engaged and valued across the spectrum of aging into older adulthood.

S.B. 104 Master Plan For Aging was signed into law March 15, 2023, and directs the Utah Commission on Aging to periodically publish a plan that will guide the aging experience over the future decades and make sure all Utahns are able to navigate the challenges and opportunities of older adulthood.

This is a call to action for state and local governments, private and public entities, and individuals to engage innovatively, proactively, and collaboratively to create a Utah where people of all ages can thrive and age with the grace and dignity they deserve. This plan helps lead the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox".

Spencer J. Cox
Governor