

# Expansion of Cincinnati's Home Care Housing Policy for Fall Prevention

Falls are a major source of morbidity and mortality among the elderly, with 3 million aging adults being treated in the ER for fall-related injuries, and the total cost of fall-related injuries totaling \$50 billion (CDC). According to the Ohio Department of Aging, one-third of Ohioans aged 65 and older experience a fall each year. We propose that Cincinnati adopts a policy that mirrors the safety requirements of Ohio Rule 3701-16-14 and extends them to private residences of individuals eligible for the Ohio Home Care Waiver Program, such as individuals who require nursing facility-level care but prefer to remain in their homes. This policy would include funding for the installation of grab bars, improved lighting, non-slip flooring, and other essential fall prevention modifications.



## Why support these policies?

- Home hazard assessments and modifications can reduce the rate of falls by 26%.
- Individuals living in environments with housing code violations are significantly more likely to experience falls and require hospitalization.
- Preventing falls before they occur reduces the need for costly emergency care and improves quality of life.

Expanding the home care housing policy to fund these essential modifications is a practical, cost-effective solution that will save lives, reduce healthcare costs, and demonstrate our city's commitment to the well-being of its most vulnerable citizens.