



Ronald S. Taylor
President & CEO
Biography

Ronald S. Taylor is a servant-leader who believes in meeting and exceeding the highest priority needs of others. He leads 150 staff members for one of the 16 Area Agencies on Aging in Michigan. The agency serves over 90,000 seniors, caregivers, and adults with disabilities annually, including the largest minority population of older adults in the state.

Taylor joined the agency in 2018, bringing varied experience in local, state and national aging services. His arrival was just months before the COVID-19 pandemic, and he quickly leveraged private and public support to increase the number of people served three-fold. He also partnered with Federally Qualified Health Centers to make COVID-19 vaccinations available to homebound seniors and their families.

The pandemic coincided with the release of *Dying Before Their Time*, 3rd edition – award-winning research on the health disparities that contribute to premature deaths of people of color, commissioned by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA). Its recommendations included a heightened focus on the social and economic determinants of health that impact longevity. For Taylor, this was the catalyst to create a community-wide Inclusive Healthcare Taskforce, in cooperation with the Michigan Public Health Institute and AARP Michigan, to achieve better access and equity in health care throughout the lifespan.

Building on DAAA's 40-year history in home and community-based services, Taylor's servant leadership and entrepreneurial spirit is focused on telehealth; reducing the digital divide for older adults; breaking down the barriers of social isolation; building up intergenerational programming; and providing greater resources for family caregivers. Collectively, these efforts address the health, wellness and lifespan issues to increase longevity.



Prior to joining DAAA, Taylor served with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Administration for Community Living (ACL). From a regional office in Atlanta, Georgia, he was the liaison to interpret federal regulations, policies, guidelines and instructions for organizations and institutions in eight states serving older persons, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers. He joined ACL after serving with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, where he led a staff of 240 employees and was responsible for a \$330 million budget to administer the federal funding directed to programs of the Older Americans Act. Under his leadership, Florida’s Nursing Home Diversion Program became a national model to transition individuals from institutional to community-based settings.

Taylor is a native of Toledo, Ohio, where he began his career at the Area Office on Aging of Northwestern Ohio. He received a Master of Business Administration – Management, Tiffin University; Master of Arts – Urban Planning, The University of Akron; Bachelor of Arts – Social Work, The University of Akron. He was a Fellow in the Re-Balancing Long-Term Care Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Minnesota.

Taylor has been recognized as one of Crain’s 2021 Notable Executives in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He serves on the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board; DTE Energy Community Advisory Council; the Direct Care Worker Advisory Council of the State of Michigan; the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Senior Advisory Council, and the National Institute on Aging Policy Advisory Council.