CONNECTICUT 2024 - 2025

FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM GUIDE

PREPARED BY THE FALLS FREE CT COALITION





ABOUT FALLS FREE CT

The Department of Aging and Disability Services and the Department of Public Health have partnered to launch Falls Free CT, a statewide falls prevention coalition.

The purpose of this coalition is to bring together falls prevention champions who are committed to reducing the incidence of falls among older adults, educating professionals and the public about the importance of falls prevention, and sharing resources and best practices.

This Falls Prevention Program Guide is created with input from coalition participants who are offering falls prevention programs and services. The intent of this guide is to make it easier to connect older adults with supportive services. Programs are listed based on general geographic location, although some are offered virtually as well.

If you would like to add your program to this guide, or participate in the Falls Free CT coalition, please contact Angela Vázquez (angela.vazquez@ct.gov) or Robin Tousey-Ayers (robin.tousey-ayers@ct.gov).

Thank you for working towards a falls free state by using and sharing this guide!

ANGELA VAZQUEZ

HEALTHY AGING PROGRAM COORDINATOR



ROBIN TOUSEY-AYERS
HEALTH PROGRAM ASSOCIATE



Public Health



NORTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

A Matter of Balance

The goal of this program is to reduce the fear of falling and improve physical activity levels among older adults. A Matter of Balance consists of eight two-hour classes.

Class schedule and locations vary

Central Connecticut Health District 2080 Silas Deane Highway Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Contact: Amy Emanuel, aemanuel@ccthd.org

A Matter of Balance

A program designed to reduce fear and manage concerns of falling while increasing physical activity among older adults. Farmington Valley Health District partners with senior centers, libraries, and other locations to offer this program for free throughout our 10 towns. Classes meet for 2 hours each week, for 8 weeks. If you are interested in developing A Matter of Balance program in your area, a shadowing opportunity can be arranged.

Class schedule and locations vary

Farmington Valley Health District 95 River Road Canton, CT 06019

Contact: Amanda Hubbard, ahubbard@fvhd.org or 860-352-2333

Falls Prevention and Home Safety Education

Physical therapy and nursing staff educate clients and families across services lines of fall prevention tips and home safety recommendations. Presentations are free.

McLean Affiliates 75 Great Pond Road Simsbury, CT 06070

Contact: Jenny Braddock, <u>jenny.braddock@mcleancare.org</u> or 860-658-3740

Mayeda Primary Care: Home Medication Assessment

Nursing practitioners focus on home visit assessments or in service workshops designed to educate patients, families, and caregivers on the vital service of safe medication administration. Resources reviewed include emergency information tracking, medication dispenser tools (safe wrap, blister packs, dispensers, etc.), delivery service considerations, and proper medication disposal. Free overview visit and accepts insurance for follow up visits.

784 Old Main St Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Contact: 860-785-8780

Mayeda Primary Care: Fall Prevention, Health & Safety Adaptations

Occupational therapy practitioners focus on home visit assessments with family and patients, adaptive safety equipment, psycho-social environmental therapeutic use of self. Immediate access to nursing expertise provided. Free overview visit and accepts insurance for follow up visits.

784 Old Main St Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Contact: 860-785-8780

Simsbury Steps to Safety

A free home safety assessment for adults 60+ years who are community dwelling. A home visit and supportive services are arranged by local emergency responders, senior and social service departments, and the Visiting Nurse Association. May also provide identified medical equipment to residents through a grant.

Simsbury Fire District 871 Hopmeadow Street Simsbury, CT 06070

Contact: Patrick Tourville, ptourville@simsburyfd.org

Farmington Valley Health District Fall Prevention Initiatives

Convening work groups with multi-jurisdictional partners in our 10 towns to provide and promote older adult fall reduction and injury prevention programming like A Matter of Balance and Steps to Safety.

Farmington Valley Health District 95 River Road Canton, CT 06019

Contact: Amanda Hubbard, ahubbard@fvhd.org or 860-352-2333

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance is an evidence-based health promotion program designed for older adults at risk of falling. TJQMBB classes involve a set of function exercises that aim at improving stability, function, coordination, balance, and muscle strength. Connecticut Community Care coordinates several TJQMBB classes throughout the state. Contact CCC to find a class near you.

Connecticut Community Care 43 Enterprise Drive Bristol, CT 06010

Contact: Karen Green, <u>karen.green@ctcommunitycare.org</u>

University of Hartford Balance and Memory Screening Community Event

This no-cost balance and memory screening event is held at the Mandell Jewish Community Center in the Spring, usually 2 hours in length on a weekday afternoon. Any adult can complete a screening. The event is conducted by faculty and physical and occupational therapy graduate students who conduct balance screens and a memory screen, while also assessing a participant's risk for falls. The results are then confidentially shared and participants are encouraged to bring the results to their medical provider and/or speak to the appropriate specialist about the concerns that may need to be addressed.

University of Hartford Department of Rehabilitation Sciences 200 Bloomfield Avenue West Hartford, CT 06117

Contact: Christy Ross, chrross@hartford.edu or 702-817-4717

WESTERN CONNECTICUT

A Matter of Balance

This program is designed to reduce the fear of falling and improve activity levels among community dwelling older adults. For more information about the next program offering, visit https://www.chesprocott.org/.

Chesprocott Health District 1220 Waterbury Road Cheshire, CT 06410

Contact: Hilary Norcia at hnorcia@chesprocott.org or 203-272-2761

Spirit Builders

Spirit Builders of Ridgefield, CT has built hundreds of affordable access ramps for those in need over the last 15 years. This service is available to build ramps for those who need them to safely leave their homes, but can't afford to pay for conventional ramp building options. Spirit Builders is a church volunteer organization that charges nothing for their labor and the designs are free. Recipients are encouraged to make a partial donation towards materials of \$15 per foot of ramp unless there is financial hardship. There are no forms to fill out. Spirit Builders serves the half of Connecticut west of Hartford, but not the city of Hartford. For more information visit, https://jesseleechurch.com/spirit-builders/.

Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church 207 Main Street Ridgefield, CT 06877

Contact: thespiritbuilders06@gmail.com or 203-438-8791

Tai Chi for Seniors

Tai Chi builds strength and balance. Participants must be able to stand for at least part of the class and be mobile.

Tuesdays, 10:00 - 11:00am

New Milford Senior Center 40 Main Street New Milford, CT 06776

Wednesdays, 1:00 - 2:00pm

Washington Senior Center 6 Bryant Hall Washington, CT 06794

Contact: Alexandra Chalif, 860-966-9099

EASTERN CONNECTICUT

EASTERN CONNECTICUT

Chair Yoga

Offered to members of Rose City Senior Center 55+ years old. \$5 for each class, \$25/year for Norwich residents, and \$40/year for non-residents.

Mondays, 12:15 - 1:15pm

Rose City Senior Center 8 Mahan Drive Norwich, CT 06360

Contact: Carol, hathayoga@snet.net or 860-887-3388

Falls Prevention Workshops

Free educational workshops offered monthly.

Waterford Senior Services 24 Rope Ferry Road Waterford, CT 06385

Contact: Terry Wheeler, twheeler@waterfordct.org or 860-444-5839

Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner

This program provides falls prevention education, clinics, and home assessments free of charge for adults 60+ years.

Days and times of services varies

Day Kimball Health at Home 415 Riverside Drive N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255

Contact: Renee King, rdking@daykimball.org or 860-576-2029

Floor Yoga

Offered to members of Rose City Senior Center 55+ years old. \$5 for each class, \$25/year for Norwich residents, and \$40/year for non-residents.

Mondays, 10:15 - 11:45am Thursdays, 11:30am - 12:30pm

Rose City Senior Center 8 Mahan Drive Norwich, CT 06360

Contact: Carol, hathayoga@snet.net or 860-887-3388

Mind Over Matter Program

Incontinence has been linked to an increased risk of falls, as the need to rush to the bathroom frequently can lead to hurried movements and loss of balance. The Mind Over Matter Program is for women who struggle with bladder or bowel leakage or who would like to prevent these challenges. Through three workshops, participants learn simple exercises and lifestyle changes to improve their symptoms and quality of life.

Senior Resources 19 Ohio Avenue, Suite 2 Norwich, CT 06360

Contact: 860-887-3561

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance

An evidence-based falls prevention program. This program is a six-month commitment (October – March and April – September). Offered free to participants 60+ years, in-person and via Zoom.

Mondays & Thursdays, 8:45 - 9:45am

12 Case Street, Suite 208 Norwich, CT 06360

Contact: Constance Capacchione, <u>c-capacchione@uncashd.org</u> or 860-639-5138

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance is an evidence-based health promotion program designed for older adults at risk of falling. TJQMBB classes involve a set of function exercises that aim at improving stability, function, coordination, balance, and muscle strength.

Uncas Health District 401 West Thames Street, Suite 106 Norwich, CT 06360

Contact: Constance Capacchione, <u>c-capacchione@uncashd.org</u> or 860-887-7898

Strength Training

An exercise class offered for older adults to help build muscle and strength. Cost is \$73 for 3 months.

Tuesdays, 9:00 - 10:00am Thursdays, 10:15 - 11:15am

Waterford Senior Services 24 Rope Ferry Road Waterford, CT 06385

Contact: Terry Wheeler, twheeler@waterfordct.org or 860-444-5839

Yoga

An exercise class offered for older adults to help improve balance and mobility. Cost is \$38 for 3 months.

Tuesdays, 11:45am - 12:45pm

Waterford Senior Services 24 Rope Ferry Road Waterford, CT 06385

Contact: Terry Wheeler, twheeler@waterfordct.org or 860-444-5839

Yoga & Tai Chi for Older Adults

Yoga classes are designed to align and strengthen your body, allowing you to move more easily throughout the day. Tai Chi classes are offered for both beginners and those with more experience. Tai Chi involves a series of gentle physical exercises and stretches. Each posture flows into the next without pause, keeping your body in constant motion. Sometimes described as meditations in motions, Tai Chi promotes serenity through gentle movements that connect the mind and body.

East Lyme Senior Center 37 Society Road Niantic, CT 06357

Contact: 860-739-5859 or visit https://eltownhall.com/community/senior-center/

SOUTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT

Community-based Fall Risk Injury Prevention

This service is a multidisciplinary fall risk program.

Stamford Health Department of Surgery-Trauma One Hospital Plaza Stamford, CT 06902

Contact: Robin Crogan Ganley, <u>rcrogan@stamhealth.org</u> or 413-949-1540

Connecticut ADA Paratransit Coordination

Assisting persons with disabilities to apply for paratransit services.

The Kennedy Collective Mobility Services 2440 Reservoir Avenue Trumbull, CT 06611

Contact: Meg Haffner, <u>mhaffner@thekennedycollective.org</u> or 475-296-2960

Falls Prevention Educational Presentation

This free presentation defines falling, provides data, and informs attendees on fall prevention efforts (i.e. blood pressure, diet, vitamins, abnormal balance, changes in medication, vision problems, and home hazards).

Days/Times are flexible

Nuvance Health Norwalk Hospital 34 Maple Street Norwalk, CT 06856

Contact: Brianna Iorfino, <u>Brianna.iorfino@nuvancehealth.org</u>

It's A Matter of Balance

This balance training class involves doing exercises to strengthen the muscles that help keep you upright, including muscles in your legs and core. Practicing single leg stances while doing a bicep curl or circling your arms while standing on a pretend balance beam will challenge your mind and body. These types of exercises can improve strength, range of motion, stability, and posture, which ultimately will help prevent falls. Offered at the Wallace Center and via Zoom. No fees are charged to members of the Wallace Center.

Wednesdays, 10:30am

The Wallace Center 299 Greenwich Avenue Greenwich, CT 06830

Contact: Lori Ann Contadino, <u>lori.contadino@greenwichct.gov</u>

Mobility Management

Information for seniors, persons with disabilities and veterans regarding transportation options that may be available where they live.

The Kennedy Collective Mobility Services 2440 Reservoir Avenue Trumbull, CT 06611

Contact: Meg Haffner, <u>mhaffner@thekennedycollective.org</u> or 475-296-2960

Mozaic Adult Day

This adult day program offers a place for seniors when it is unsafe for them to be alone at home. Most clients have some form of dementia. Nurses are on staff daily to monitor patient health and behavior, coordinate services, administer medications and treatments, etc. A Certified Nursing Assistant is also available to assist clients with Activities of Daily Living.

Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm

Mozaic Senior Life 4200 Park Avenue Bridgeport, CT 06604

Contact: Julie Bruno, jbruno@mozaicsl.org

Osteo-cise

This program, adapted from the Strong Bones for Life study, uses weights and strength-based exercise for improving bone health and muscle function and reducing falls risk in community-dwelling older adults. No fees are charged to members of the Wallace Center.

Mondays, 12:45pm

The Wallace Center 299 Greenwich Avenue Greenwich, CT 06830

Contact: Lori Ann Contadino, <u>lori.contadino@greenwichct.gov</u>

Tai Chi

With its integrative approach that strengthens the body while focusing the mind, tai chi addresses a range of physical and mental health issues—including bone strength, joint stability, cardiovascular health, immunity, and emotional well-being. Tai chi is especially useful for improving balance and preventing falls. No fees are charged to members of the Wallace Center.

Tuesdays, 11:00am Thursdays & Fridays, 10:30am

The Wallace Center 299 Greenwich Avenue Greenwich, CT 06830

Contact: Lori Ann Contadino, <u>lori.contadino@greenwichct.gov</u>

Travel Training

For seniors and persons with disabilities, one-on-one free instruction on learning how to take the public bus or train.

The Kennedy Collective Mobility Services 2440 Reservoir Avenue Trumbull, CT 06611

Contact: Meg Haffner, <u>mhaffner@thekennedycollective.org</u> or 475-296-2960

SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

A Matter of Balance

This program is 8 weeks long and 2 hours each week. It is for those who are fearful of falling or have balance issues.

Naugatuck Valley Health District 98 Bank Street Seymour, CT 06483

Contact: Carissa Caserta, ccaserta@nvhd.org or 203-881-3255

A Matter of Balance

This program provides older adults with exercises to do to help with their balance and gives them positive self-talk to help them try and be more positive and try to slowly decrease falling anxiety.

Wallingford Health Department 45 S Main Street Wallingford, CT 06492

Contact: Odali Rodriguez, <u>o.rodriguez@wallingfordct.gov</u> or 203-294-2065

Better Balance Program

This program uses 1-2 pound weights, resistance bands, small and medium sized balls, noodles and body weight to strengthen overall body, increase flexibility, enhance endurance and improve balance. Brain/memory exercises are also incorporated into the program.

Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:30am

The New Frontiers Group, LLC 570 Moose Hill Road Guilford, CT 06437

Contact: Adrienne Patrella, <u>adriennepatrella@yahoo.com</u>

Fall Prevention Technology

Focuses on the physical and environmental aspects that lead to falls and the technology that is used to prevent or respond to falls.

Masonicare 110 South Turnpike Road Wallingford, CT 06492

Contact: Tyler Carmen, tcarmen@masonicare.org

Move to Music Program

Move to Music is a low impact, fun, choreographed fitness class which can be done either seated or standing. The functional movements can help to improve coordination, balance, strength and memory.

The New Frontiers Group, LLC 570 Moose Hill Road Guilford, CT 06437

Contact: Adrienne Patrella, adriennepatrella@yahoo.com

Yale University's Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program

This program provides education to trainees on gait, balance, mobility, and falls prevention.

Contact: Andrea Rink, andrea.rink@yale.edu

STATEWIDE 2024 - 2025

STATEWIDE

Center for Healthy Aging Nurse Visit

Transitional care nurses, resource coordinators, and dementia specialists offer a free service to the aging population and those who are high risk and have safety concerns at home. Nurses offer a one-time free nursing visit to assess the home situation, safety concerns, and provide education and resources available to ensure safety and offer support.

Center for Healthy Aging 81 Meriden Road Southington, CT 06489

Contact: CenterForHealthyAging@hhchealth.org or 1-877-424-4641

GoodLife Fitness

Medically cleared individual and small group individualized exercise programs by exercise physiologists/specialists trained in working with those with complex co-morbidities.

Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network 9 Farm Springs Road Farmington, CT 06032

Contact: Nancy Perrotta, Nancy.perrotta@hhchealth.org

Hartford HealthCare Safe Steps Program & Full Physical Medicine and Therapy Services

Evidenced based outpatient therapy program for fall prevention, accepting all insurance.

Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network 9 Farm Springs Road Farmington, CT 06032

Contact: Nancy Perrotta, Nancy.perrotta@hhchealth.org

STATEWIDE 2024 - 2025

Live Well Workshops

Live Well is Connecticut's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, which empowers older adults to manage their ongoing health conditions with confidence. This evidence-based health promotion program is proven to help older adults build confidence in their ability to manage their health and maintain active, fulfilling lives. Live Well is appropriate for older adults who have diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, heart disease, anxiety, depression, arthritis, HIV/AIDS, asthma, chronic pain, and other ongoing health conditions.

Live Well workshops are offered for free to adults 60 years and older who are living with one or more ongoing health conditions, or who are caring for someone with an ongoing health condition. Participants meet with a small group for two hours each week, for six weeks and receive a book and other resources to help reinforce knowledge and skills learned. Workshops are highly accessible. Sessions are offered in-person, online, and over the phone. There is also a version of Live Well available for Spanish-speaking older adults.

Workshop sessions are high-quality and interactive. Topics covered include action planning and problem solving, decision-making and communications skills, working effectively with healthcare providers, overcoming difficult emotions, and healthy lifestyle choices. Workshops are led by trained and experienced leaders, who are regularly monitored for fidelity to the licensed curriculum provided by the Self-Management Resource Center.

Contact: Angela Vázquez, angela.vazquez@ct.gov or complete a referral form at <u>bit.ly/Live-Well-Form</u> to participate or host a workshop series.

STATEWIDE 2024 - 2025

Municipal Agents for the Elderly

Every city and town in Connecticut has a Municipal Agent for the Elderly, who is designated to assist older adults with a variety of needs and services. Your local Municipal Agent can help direct you to additional falls prevention and physical activity programs in your area, such as programming offered through senior centers. For a directory of Municipal Agents visit, https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/Municipal-Agents-for-the-Elderly-Listing/dsrn-u9nm/about_data.



The agencies and organizations listed below are represented on the Falls Free CT Coalition. The State is grateful for the dedication and service of all of the falls prevention champions who participate in the coalition.

All Hearts Yoga

Assisted Living Technologies, Inc.

Brain Injury Alliance of CT

Bridgewater Hilltop Senior Center

Brookfield Volunteer Fire Company

Central Connecticut Health District

Central Connecticut State University

Chesprocott Health District

City of Bridgeport

City of Danbury

City of Hartford

City of New Britain

City of Norwalk

Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Connecticut Hospital Association

Connecticut Mental Health Center

CT Community Care's Connecticut Age Well Collaborative

Danbury Senior Center

Day Kimball Health

Department of Aging and Disability Services, Bureau of Aging

Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services

Department of Public Health, Office of Injury and Violence Prevention

Department of Public Health, Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit

Department of Social Services, Protective Services for the Elderly

Duncaster, Inc.



Easterseals Medical Rehabilitation

Ellington Volunteer Ambulance

Enfield Senior Center

Fairfield University

Farmington Valley Health District

Gaylord Hospital Inpatient Therapy Services

Hartford HealthCare's Center for Healthy Aging

Hartford HealthCare's Jefferson House

Hartford HealthCare Rehabilitation Network

Hartford Healthcare's Senior Services

Hartford HealthCare's Southington Care Center

Hartford HealthCare's St. Vincent's Medical Center

Hartford HealthCare's William W. Backus Hospital

Hartford Hospital's Injury Prevention Program

Hospital for Special Care's Quality Improvement Services

Hospital of Central Connecticut

Jerome Home

LeadingAge CT

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Lyme Senior Center

Masonicare

Mayeda Primary Care

McLean Affiliates

Midstate Medical Center

Mozaic Senior Life

Naugatuck Valley Health District

North Central Area Agency on Aging

Nuvance Health's Danbury Hospital & Trauma Center

Nuvance Health's Norwalk Hospital

Nuvance Health's Western Connecticut Home Care



Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine Centers

Riverbrook Regional YMCA

RVNA Health

Sacred Heart University

Senior Resources Agency on Aging

Simsbury Fire Department

Southwestern CT Agency on Aging

Stamford Health

Sterling Care LLC

The Kennedy Collective

The Towers at Tower Lane

Torrington Area Health District

Town of Cromwell Senior Center

Town of East Hartford

Town of Ellington

Town of Greenwich Commission on Aging & Wallace Center

Town of Portland

Town of Wallingford

Town of Waterford

Town of West Hartford

Town of Wilton

Trinity Health of New England's Johnson Memorial Hospital

Trinity Health of New England's Saint Mary's Hospital

UConn Center on Aging's Older Americans Independence (Pepper) Center

UConn Health, Department of Clinical Effectiveness and Patient Safety

Uncas Health District

United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut

University of Hartford



Waterford Community Center West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District Western CT Mental Health Network Yale New Haven Hospital Yale School of Medicine Yale University

This guide was last updated in May 2025. Visit https://portal.ct.gov/ads-fallsprevention to access the latest version of this program guide.