

# 2023 Legislative Agenda

## **Support Our Aging Population by Investing in Aging Services, Supports & Housing**

LeadingAge Connecticut is advocating this session to ensure a secure future for Connecticut's aging services consumer. The future we envision offers a modernized aging services sector; one which delivers high-quality, person-centered long-term services and supports (LTSS) at every stage of the aging services continuum while also providing safe, affordable and supportive housing options for older adults.

### **Funding to Support the Demand for Quality Aging Services**

*A modernized aging services environment requires sustainable funding to meet the demand of an aging population and to match the needs of the aging services consumer.*

- **Fully fund the next two years of the three-year phase in of the new nursing home acuity-based rating system** that began a phased in implementation on July 1, 2022.
- **Establish a separate pool of new funding for the nursing home Quality Measure Payments** to be implemented on July 1, 2023.
- **Fund capital infrastructure improvements** for skilled nursing facilities and recognize the importance of all costs associated with the provision of quality shelter, support and services provided to nursing home residents.
- **Support increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for home health care and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CTHCPE) providers**, in line with the HCBS ARPA Spending Plan and recommendations of the pending DSS rate study for CTHCPE services.
- **Promote and expand access to adult day services** as a viable community-based service option.

### **Action to Address the Workforce Crisis in Health Care**

*Every aging services provider is challenged by staffing shortages. Temporary staffing agencies are charging exorbitant prices, nursing homes are limiting admissions due to staffing challenges and recruitment efforts are challenging.*

- **Provide financial support** for the recruitment and retention of quality health care staff.
- **Expand the number of fingerprint scanning locations available to new hires required to undergo the state's centralized background check** to make the locations more accessible to job candidates.
- **Address the exploitative practices** of temporary staffing agencies.
- **Expand education and training opportunities** so they are both accessible and affordable.
- **Explore a public relations campaign** to entice Connecticut residents to work in the aging services field.

### **Updating of Regulations, Programs and Senior Housing**

*An efficient and modernized aging services landscape of regulation, services and housing can empower providers to offer options in line with economic realities and the goals of Connecticut's LTSS Rebalancing Plan.*

- **Enable the Establishment of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)** to offer comprehensive LTSS to dual-eligible individuals in the community.
- **Review rigid laws and regulations** out of line with modern technology and the current workforce reality. **This includes updating the nursing home wait list laws** that currently require many outdated administrative functions, including a mandate that the list to be kept in a bound paper book.
- **Seek options to develop more units of affordable senior housing.**

LeadingAge Connecticut ([www.leadingagect.org](http://www.leadingagect.org)) is a membership association representing over 130 not-for-profit and mission-driven provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of long-term services, supports and housing.

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