

2024 Legislative Agenda

Seeking Support for Aging Services, Supports & Housing

LeadingAge Connecticut continues to advocate for 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 & Affordable Senior Housing

A viable and balanced aging services environment requires sustainable funding to support the service demands and housing needs of the aging consumer.

- **Maintain the funding in the biennial budget for the new nursing home acuity-based rating system** that began a phased in implementation on July 1, 2022.
- **Design a method of funding the nursing home quality measure payments for the next biennium** that does not rely on a rate withhold.
- **Fund capital infrastructure improvements** for skilled nursing facilities and residential care homes.
- **Anticipate the use of the state's rate studies** to develop a sustainable Medicaid reimbursement system for aging service providers to allow them to meet the future demand for services.
- **Seek options to develop more units of affordable senior housing.**

Action to Address the Workforce Crisis in Health Care

Every aging services provider is challenged by staffing shortages. Providers are limiting new admissions due to staffing challenges and recruitment challenges are mounting

- **Expand the number of finger print scanning locations available to new hires who are subject to the state's centralized background check** to make the locations more accessible to job candidates.
- **Allow medication technicians** to work in the nursing home and assisted living settings.
- **Address the problem of workplace violence** in our community and institutional health care settings.
- **Expand healthcare 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.
- **Address the exploitative practices** of temporary staffing agencies.

Update Statutes and Regulations

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.

- **Update the nursing home wait list laws** as outlined in the wait list work group report.
- **Resolve the statutory obstacles that are impeding the implementation of Connie, the state HIE.**
- **Implement the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).**

LeadingAge Connecticut (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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