



2022 Legislative Agenda

Invest in the Future of Connecticut's Aging Services

LeadingAge Connecticut is advocating this session to ensure a secure future for Connecticut's aging services consumers. The future we envision offers a modernized aging services sector; one which delivers high-quality, person-centered long-term services and supports at every stage of the aging services continuum.

Address the Workforce Crisis

Over 380,000 nursing home jobs were lost nationwide; temporary staffing agencies are charging exorbitant prices; and it is estimated that over 50% of nursing homes are limiting admissions due to staffing challenges.

- **Provide financial support** to address immediate need, incentivize staff to remain, and encourage trained individuals to return to the healthcare sector.
- **Address the exploitative practices** of temporary staffing agencies.
- **Expand education and training** opportunities to make them accessible and affordable.
- **Elevate partnership** between the healthcare sector and our economic development and workforce officials.
- **Explore a public relations campaign** to entice Connecticut residents to work in the aging services field.
- **Expand the number of fingerprint scanning locations** to make them more accessible to job candidates.

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.

- **Fund the new nursing home acuity-based rating system** as proposed in the rate system design recently modeled by DSS.
- **Fund infrastructure improvements** for skilled nursing facilities.
- **Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for Assisted Living Services Agencies (ALSAs)** to allow for the continuation of the assisted living program in affordable housing settings.
- **Support increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for home health care and the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CTHCPE)**, in line with the HCBS ARPA Spending Plan and recommendations of the pending DSS rate study for CTHCPE services.
- **Explore and allow new solutions** for the delivery of long-term services and supports (LTSS).
- **Revisit the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)** to offer comprehensive LTSS to dual-eligible individuals in the community.

Address Regulations Misaligned with Today's Aging Services Environment

An efficient regulatory system can empower providers to offer services in line with current economic realities and the goals of Connecticut's Long-Term Services and Supports Rebalancing Plan.

- **Maintain our current model of assisted living** but modify it to accommodate affordable housing settings.
- **Streamline the nursing home CON process** to assist skilled nursing facilities with updating and diversifying their campuses to meet community demand and LTSS rebalancing goals.
- **Review rigid laws and regulations** out of line with current workforce reality.

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

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