

# CT Elder Action Network - CEAN

*A dynamic group of leaders working to advance responsible public policy*

## 2009 Legislative Priorities

To help achieve success for all efforts designed to allow individuals to receive services and supports in their homes and communities—such as the newly launched Money Follows the Person program—Connecticut must support the long-term care infrastructure.

*How can Connecticut help older adults and persons with disabilities receive care at home—to save the state money and help people live more independently?*

- Reinvest the “enhanced match” received under Money Follows the Person—as required under Public Act 08-180. Low provider rates exacerbate an existing workforce shortage—we must pay providers a reasonable reimbursement rate and invest in initiatives to recruit and train more direct care workers to address our existing workforce shortage. *Who will take care of individuals who need care?*
- Ensure the long-term viability of all programs that help individuals who are receiving care in the community, including Personal Care Assistant waiver, Acquired Brain Injury waiver, Home Care Program for Disabled Adults and others. *Without these programs in place and open to new participants, individuals may be forced to receive care in more expensive, institutionalized settings.*
- A comprehensive reorganization of DSS—while retaining its all-ages approach—could achieve cost savings, improve the delivery of services and supports, be easier for residents and would result in a more integrated approach to long-term care. This consolidated approach is fully supported by the Long-Term Care Needs Assessment and other national research and best practices.

## CEAN Member Organizations

CT Commission on Aging  
CT Coalition on Aging, Inc.  
CT Association of Senior Center Personnel  
AARP-Connecticut  
CT Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.  
Connecticut Community Care, Inc.  
Connecticut Legal Services  
State of CT Long-Term Care Ombudsman

## ***Out of Crisis Comes Opportunity***

During these difficult budget times, the CT Elder Action Network (CEAN) pledges to work with state government to discover opportunities to streamline services, institute best practices and maximize resources.

### ***Reaffirming a commitment to the most vulnerable***

As has already been done with energy assistance, Connecticut should recommit itself to helping the neediest among us with other basic needs: shelter, medical care and food.

### ***Maintaining Valuable Services: “First do no harm”***

The state should continue to provide at least the current level and quality of services for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders, ConnPACE, housing assistance programs (like RAP), nutrition, valuable Medicaid programs (like the Personal Care Assistants and Acquired Brain Injury waivers and the CT Home Care Program for Disabled Adults pilot) and other programs and services that provide a basic level of care to those in need.

### ***Taking a Hard Look at the Books***

This may mean cutting back on some proposed investments in otherwise worthy initiatives.

Streamlining some existing programs will provide opportunities for enhanced implementation of Best Practices.

The state should prioritize the use of state funding for programs and services for those most in need.

Continued support of Money Follows the Person and a similar forthcoming program for persons who have not been institutionalized for six months will save the state money, while improving the quality of life for many older adults and persons with disabilities.

### ***Supporting the Infrastructure***

A robust provider network is essential to helping people of all ages and needs receive proper care. The state should establish appropriate compensation for all of its providers through a COLA, to help cover increased costs due to energy, transportation, health care inflation. Ways to support the informal network (i.e., family caregivers and volunteers) should be prioritized as well.

### ***Thinking Creatively***

In addition to providing a needed increase, the state can help providers cut costs by establishing opportunities for providers to pool and maximize resources.

Centralized training, free job listings on the state web site and other ideas may help private providers combat rising costs by creating opportunities for greater efficiency.

A state commitment to establishing and enhancing training programs for home- and health care workers will help meet looming workforce challenges.