



Main Priority: Long-Term Care Systems Change

As outlined in the newly-released Long-Term Care Needs Assessment, the Connecticut Commission on Aging supports a number of public policy initiatives collectively designed to change Connecticut's long-term care system.

These initiatives include:

- Reinvest the enhanced Medicaid match for the Money Follows the Person Demonstration Program back into the home and community based system (\$7M over 5 years); and,
- Champion a multi-year effort to move Connecticut toward a change in culture and rebalancing, enhancing the utilization of funding for home and community based care:
 - Invest in a public education campaign about long-term care choices and about saving and planning options;
 - Establish Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) statewide, to enhance individual choice, support informed decision-making in long term care, minimize confusion and allow for a single point of entry. A pilot ADRC, in the beginning phases, is a collaborative effort between the Centers for Independent Living, the South Central Area Agency on Agency/CHOICES and other partners;
 - Address workforce issues, including shortages and the need to provide financial and other support to informal caregivers (a critical component of efforts to enhance staffing ratios in nursing homes and improve quality);
 - Streamline Connecticut's waiver system; and,
 - Enhance services for adults with developmental disabilities, as well as respite care services for all caregivers.

Other Important Initiatives:

Enhancement of Programs

- Enhance state funding for energy assistance programs, to ensure that the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) does not run out of funds before the end of this winter; and,
- Enhance funding for elderly nutrition, a critical component to keeping people in their communities.

Adequate Funding for Providers

- Increase funding to ensure the viability of programs that keep individuals in their communities, such as adult day care programs.

Medicaid/Health Care Issues

- Enhance the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) program, which provides important payment for Medicare beneficiaries of modest financial means;
- Increase the monthly allowance for participants in the Medicaid "spend-down" program; and,
- Expand, simplify and increase public awareness of the Medicaid Hospice option.

Property Tax Reform

- Support property tax reform in line with recommendations from the Connecticut Commission on Aging's report on Property Tax relief programs.