



Legislative Priorities 2008

Main Priority: Long-Term Care Systems Change

As outlined in the state's Long-Term Care Needs Assessment, the Connecticut Commission on Aging is committed to a multi-year effort to change and rebalance Connecticut's long-term care system. These initiatives include:

- Money Follows the Person:
 - 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)—**not currently in a bill, but potential budget item**; and,
 - Expand the program to include individuals who have not been institutionalized for six months.
- 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 for consumers and their families—**HB 5791**;
- 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)—**SB 470**;
- Streamline Connecticut's waiver system;
- Enhance services for adults with developmental disabilities, as well as respite care services for all caregivers—**HB 5793**; and,
- Invest in a public education campaign about long-term care choices and about saving and planning options.

Other Important Initiatives:

Enhancement of Programs and Adequate Funding of Providers

- Enhance state funding for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP), to ensure funding for the whole winter—**budget**;
- Increase funding to and enhance programs that ensure the viability of programs that keep individuals in their communities, such as adult day programs and elderly nutrition—**budget**;
- Include funding of \$1M for the CHOICES program—**proposed to be cut by Gov. Rell, but included in Appropriations Committee budget**;
- Include funding of \$500,000 for a fall prevention program—**proposed to be cut by Gov. Rell, but included in Appropriations Committee budget**;
- Enhance the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders by reducing or eliminating age barriers and adding personal care assistants—**budget**; and,
- Ensure better options for transportation by enhancing funding to Independent Transportation Networks—**SB 664**.

Medicaid/Health Care Issues

- Enhance the Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB) and Qualifying Individual (QI) programs, which provide important payment for Medicare beneficiaries of modest financial means—**HB 5796**; and,
- Expand, simplify and increase public awareness of the Medicaid Hospice option—**SB 34 (sec. 2)**.

Property Tax Reform and Housing Options

- Support property tax reform in line with recommendations from the Connecticut Commission on Aging's report on Property Tax relief programs; and,
- Expand options for individuals living in assisted living and congregate housing—**HB 5127**.



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Advocating for Older Adults of Today and Tomorrow