

# The Connecticut Commission on Aging and the Long-Term Care Advisory Council

in partnership with the

## Appropriations, Public Health, Human Services and Aging Committees

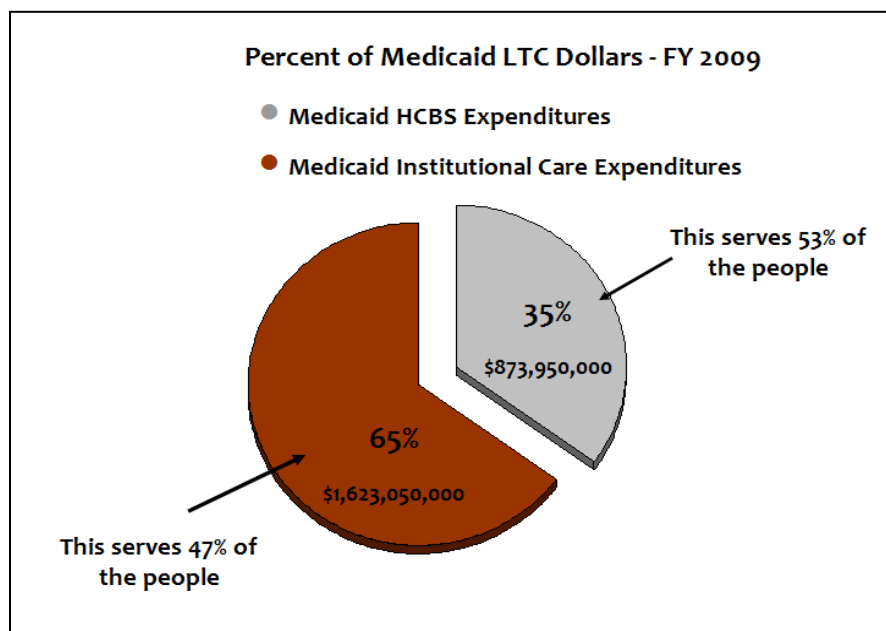
Will Present a Legislative Briefing

### A Balanced Approach to Long-Term Services and Supports: Meeting Needs, Maximizing State & Federal Funds

Friday, February 5 @ 1:30 pm  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2C

Come learn how to turn Connecticut's budget crisis into an opportunity to provide more choice and save money in delivering long-term care services and supports to older adults and persons with disabilities.

Long-term care reform is part of the budget solution and it's the right thing to do!



*Please RSVP  
via email: [coa@cga.ct.gov](mailto:coa@cga.ct.gov),  
or call the CT Commission on Aging: (860) 240-5200.*

*In the event of inclement weather please call the  
above phone number.*



*An independent, non-partisan office of the Connecticut General Assembly*

## **NEWS**

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*As state budget crisis deepens:*  
**Long-Term Care Forum Slated Feb. 5 at State Capitol  
Explores Critical Need to Retool Multi-Billion \$ System**

HARTFORD— The Connecticut Commission on Aging and Long-Term Care Advisory Council, (LTCAC) in partnership with four committees of the General Assembly, will present a free forum on the critical need to restructure the state's multi-billion-dollar long-term care system Feb. 5 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in room 2C of the Legislative Office Building adjacent to the state Capitol.

"A Balanced Approach to Long-Term Care Services and Supports: Meeting Needs, Maximizing State & Federal Funds," is being presented by the commission, LTCAC and the legislature's Appropriations, Public Health, Human Services and Aging committees.

"The startling demographic changes rushing towards us, combined with the ever-increasing cost of services, make it clear that we don't have a choice in deciding whether or not to change the long-term care paradigm," Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr said. "If we don't make fundamental changes—and soon—the results will be catastrophic."

Already the nation's seventh oldest state, Connecticut's population of residents 65 and older will increase by 64 percent over the next 20 years to nearly 800,000 people. One million baby boomers—about one-third of the state's overall population—will begin turning 65 next year.

Connecticut's current Medicaid long-term care expenditures alone represent 13 percent of the state budget—or more than \$2 billion.

The commission has presented the General Assembly with recommendations to "rebalance" the system—focusing on home- and community-based services—that could save Connecticut about \$600 million annually.

"The forum provides an opportunity to learn about Connecticut's long-term care services and supports, how the budget crisis is affecting these programs and to explore short-and long-term solutions to meet residents' needs," Evans Starr said.

The commission, a non-partisan research and public policy agency of the General Assembly, has led Connecticut's efforts to transform its long-term care system and to prepare for the state's soaring population of older adults.

"We believe Connecticut's budget crisis serves as a catalyst to provide more choice for older adults and persons with disabilities and to streamline long-term care services and supports," Evans Starr said.

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