

Policy Priorities

Who We Are

- LeadingAge is the largest association of nonprofit aging services organizations in the country.
- We are a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, charitable organization focused on education, advocacy, and applied research.
- We create innovative solutions for our members' challenges and are committed to developing new ways to improve operations and quality of service.
- As leaders in aging services, we work together toward a shared purpose—to enable the next generation of older adults to live their fullest life and pursue meaning every single day. And as the trusted voice for aging, we commit to empowering our members to transform the aging experience for all.

Our Members

Our mission-driven members provide services and supports for older adults, with a focus on high quality, person-centered care.

LeadingAge's membership includes:

- **5,300 nonprofits** that represent the full continuum of care, from housing and skilled nursing to home health, hospice and more
- **38 state partners**
Hundreds of businesses, consumer groups, foundations, and research partners



Impact

Our members touch millions of lives every day. With a passion and dedication for helping older people live and thrive wherever they call home, LeadingAge is the catalyst for innovation, providing creative approaches for new and needed services and supports for older adults. LeadingAge advocates for critical issues impacting aging services today. Our goal is to create a more diverse and robust network of mission-driven providers to shape and influence the future of aging services.

For more information, please visit LeadingAge.org
The Trusted Voice for Aging

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Our Top Policy Priorities

We are experiencing a workforce crisis in aging services. LeadingAge advocates for sufficient resources and policy tools to ensure that aging services providers are able to recruit and retain qualified, motivated, engaged staff at all levels.

- Support H.R. 1265, the Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act, to provide more flexibility in the relationship between nursing home surveys and CNA training programs.
- Create a foreign guest worker program targeted on aging services with guardrails protecting guest workers from exploitation.
- Support geriatrics workforce legislation (S. 299) that provides educational and grant opportunities and ensures an adequate supply of professionals to meet the needs of an aging population.
- Direct the Government Accountability Office to study and report on the long-term services and supports (LTSS) workforce crisis.

There is a severe lack of affordable housing for older adults with low incomes in the U.S. LeadingAge members who provide affordable housing report long waiting lists and increasing frailty of residents. More resources are needed for housing and service coordination. We must find solutions that allow housing and health/support services to work together to serve consumers.

- Support full funding for FY 2020 of Section 202/PRAC and PBRA contracts renewals and service coordinator grant renewals.
- Appropriate \$600 million for Section 202 housing to bring the program up to its funding level in the mid-2000s and build 4,300 new homes for older adults with low incomes.
- Support a \$30 million expansion of HUD's service coordinator program, restart Capital Repair Grants for Section 202, and establish a new HUD-administered home modification program.
- Fund proven models that combine housing with services to enable older individuals to remain independent in the community.

The 1.5 million people in America's nursing homes should be given the highest quality, outcome-driven services delivered in a person-centered environment. Nursing homes must be adequately funded, staffed, and structured. We support regulatory approaches that promote quality.

- The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) should assure quality while reducing unnecessary regulatory burden.
- There must be sufficient, qualified staff to deliver quality nursing home services.

- Ensure that Payroll Based Journaling enables accurate reporting, but does not produce unintended barriers to quality.
- Maximize quality using Value Based Payment and the Quality Reporting Program.
- Promote the use of telehealth models to improve care and reduce hospitalizations, especially in rural health settings.

Most people would prefer to remain at home, and in the community, when they need long-term services and supports. LeadingAge members provide an ever-increasing array of home and community-based services (HCBS). We support policies that give HCBS providers the ability to deliver the highest quality care that complements informal caregiving.

- Implement the HCBS Settings Rule in a way that promotes services in the most integrated settings without impeding the ability of aging services providers to deliver appropriate care.
- Monitor Medicaid waiver policies and programs to ensure the best home and community-based services.
- Reauthorize the Older Americans Act in a robust way to support 21st century aging services.

More than a third of Medicare beneficiaries are now in Medicare Advantage plans and 24 states operate Managed LTSS programs. We advocate for policies that ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries receive comprehensive, quality care from these managed care arrangements and that aging services providers are fairly reimbursed for their roles in these systems.

- Monitor policy developments and administrative guidance related to Medicare Advantage to ensure that post-acute and support services are part of the discussion.
- Develop a post-acute bundled payment or alternative payment model through the CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation.
- Advocate for legislation that would allow all time that Medicare beneficiaries spend in a hospital to count toward the 3 day stay required for subsequent post-acute care.

By 2030 more than one in five Americans will be over the age of 65, with a 50% possibility of needing paid long-term services and supports before they die and few options to pay for it. LeadingAge advocates for meaningful LTSS financing reform.

- LeadingAge recommends a dignity-driven and universal long-term services and supports insurance program grounded in the principles of shared risk and consumer flexibility. We will continue to work with Rep. Pallone on his draft reform proposal and with other members of Congress to frame and support workable solutions.

We invite you to learn more about these and other policy positions of critical importance to LeadingAge members across the country by reviewing our 2019 Policy Priorities at [LeadingAge.org/policy-positions](https://www.leadingage.org/policy-positions)