



Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging
2015 Top State Legislative Priorities:
Protect and Strengthen Our Communities for the Future

The Age Wave is Here! Three priorities this next legislative session will help prepare for this huge demographic shift.

Help people age in place in their homes and communities by strengthening the existing network and pursuing new opportunities for needed reinvestments

- ✓ **Reinvest the savings from the new Medicaid Community First Choice Option (CFCO)** in the current community long-term support system and support the study group recommendations to
 - a. Expand supports to unpaid family caregivers through the **Family Caregiver Support Program and options counseling services**.
 - b. Increase access to positive behavioral support services,
 - c. Increase the time caseworkers have to assist individuals with person-centered planning,
 - d. Increase in-home hours targeted to individuals at risk for out of home placement.
- ✓ **Restore lost capacity for AAA case management services** to keep vulnerable adults safe in the community and to promote better health outcomes for adults using Medicaid LTSS services.
- ✓ **Restore eroded funding for the Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA)** to reinvest in and strengthen flexible, locally controlled services that help older adults stay at home.

Promote a more secure economic future for all Washingtonians through tools that encourage today's workers to save for retirement and for their long-term support needs.

- ✓ Invest now in a study to model and compare alternative options to help people save for their long-term support needs. Leaving Medicaid as the sole vehicle for financing long-term services and supports will increasingly press state and federal budgets.
- ✓ Study how to make it easier for small businesses to establish basic retirement savings options for their employees.

Make sure the LTSS system is strong enough to support and protect vulnerable adults

- ✓ Increase funding to **support the partners** in abuse response, including the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) and the Office of Public Guardianship (OPG). Protect at-risk individuals through fully functioning local CLC/ADRC services.
- ✓ Support **sufficient investigative staff** – state and local – to meet the growing challenge. Ensure proper training in investigatory skills and capacity screening. Improve support for survivors by funding targeted, time-limited community case management services.