

1 IN 7 OLDER ADULTS **STRUGGLE**
WITH FOOD INSECURITY



Increase the MDHHS FY 23 budget line item for nutrition services to eliminate waitlists for home-delivered meals.

OLDER ADULTS **ON WAITLISTS**
ARE 5X MORE LIKELY TO ENTER
A NURSING FACILITY

5X
MORE LIKELY

Increase the MDHHS FY 23 budget line item for HASA community services to address longstanding waitlists.

UBER EATS DRIVERS MAKE MORE
THAN DIRECT CARE WORKERS

\$11.58
PER HOUR

Continue the \$2.35 per hour Direct Care Worker wage increase in the FY 23 budget and beyond.

SAVE MORE THAN 55% WITH
COMMUNITY-BASED IN-HOME CARE



Rebalance Medicaid long-term services and supports spending to favor a proven community-based approach: MI Choice Waiver.

start

the

conversation

The Senior Alliance

5454 Venoy Rd. Wayne, MI 48184

800-815-1112

www.thesenioralliance.org

advocacy@thesenioralliance.org

**WE DO THIS
FOR OUR
COMMUNITY.
THAT INCLUDES YOU.**

Community impact goes further when we work together to make a change.



2022 Advocacy Platform

 The Senior Alliance

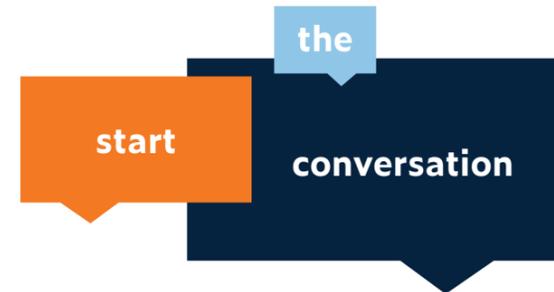
800-815-1112 | advocacy@thesenioralliance.org



 Funding for Home-Delivered Meals	 Safety Net Programs	 Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (SHIP)
--	---	---

Nutrition, health and housing stability should be easier to obtain for older adults and adults living with a disability.

 Elder Abuse Justice	 Partner with USAgging	 Eliminate Wait Lists
--	--	---



 Increase Workforce	 Save with MI Choice Waiver	 Preserve & Rebalance MI Choice Waiver
---	---	--

Get our monthly advocacy e-newsletter and action alerts. Just email "Subscribe" to advocacy@thesenioralliance.org.

 Public Review of MI Health Link	 Grow Transportation	 Combat Elder Abuse
---	---	--

For more information contact our advocacy team at advocacy@thesenioralliance.org.

 Expand Housing	 Increase Outreach	 Expand Broadband Internet Access
---	--	---

DEFEND OLDER ADULTS QUALITY OF LIFE

Preserve "Safety Net" Programs that impact older adults and adults with disabilities, like:

- Medicare/Medicaid
- Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act
- Social Security
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Older Americans Act
- Veterans Administration
- Nutrition
- Housing Assistance
- Transportation
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

MEET THE RISING NEED IN TITLE III B PROGRAMS

Invest in vital Older Americans Act Title III B supportive services by growing the federal budget appropriation to \$785 million. Title III B is the foundation of the Older Americans Act because it provides flexible funding for a wide-range of impactful programs and critical services like: Information & Assistance, Transportation, Care Management, Legal Services, and Gap Filling Efforts.

31% of MICHIGAN HOUSEHOLDS DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS

The Senior Alliance supports policies that enable all Michigan residents to have affordable access to broadband internet service. 31% of Michigan households don't have affordable, reliable internet. All Michiganders should have access to affordable, broadband level internet service. The internet is critical to accessing health care services, combating social isolation, connecting to informational resources and participating in the workforce.

10,000 AMERICANS TURN 65 EVERY DAY

Increase SHIP, known in Michigan as MMAP, funding in the federal budget to at least \$79.5 million. SHIP funding enables highly trained MMAP staff and volunteers to provide free, independent and unbiased information about Medicare and Medicaid enrollment choices to thousands of older adults and caregivers in our service area every year. MMAP is a highly valuable free resource for anyone making decisions about their Medicare coverage, including the Part D prescription drug benefit.

2.4 MILLION OLDER ADULTS FACE HOUSING INSECURITY

The Senior Alliance supports policies and appropriations to improve the affordability of housing for older adults and people living with a disability, further enabling individuals to live in the community they choose. A Harvard University study finds that 2.4 million of the poorest older adults will have no access to affordable housing by 2038. Models that bring together housing accessibility and available community-based services should be encouraged and enabled.

EVALUATE LONG-TERM SERVICES IN MICHIGAN

Before further Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) models are expanded or deployed by the state an intense review of MI Health Link results should occur by stakeholders and elected officials to determine if there have been cost savings, improved health outcomes, and improved patient experience. All data from the MI Health Link dual-eligible demonstration project data should be publicly released.

78% OF CAREGIVERS ARRANGE TRANSPORT

Support policies and advocate to expand the availability, affordability, and accessibility of transportation options that enable people to work, volunteer, socialize, recreate, access services, keep clinical appointments, attend religious activities, and spend time with family. Lack of transportation leads many older adults to miss both critical and routine medical appointments, resulting in adverse health impacts and higher medical costs. The Family Caregiver Alliance reports that 78% of caregivers have provided or arranged transportation for their loved one.

1 IN 10 OLDER ADULTS DEAL WITH ELDER ABUSE

Collaborate with partners in the aging network to support state-level policies to combat all forms of elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect. Elder abuse is all too common with 1 in 10 older adults becoming the victims of abuse. Some victims suffer physically; many others bear psychological and emotional scars.

COLLABORATE WITH USAgging AND DO MORE

The Senior Alliance will partner with USAgging, our national Area Agency on Aging Association, to advocate in support of their annual Policy Priorities. While these priorities heavily focus on federal appropriations, they also include support for initiatives and activities in areas such as the Elder Justice Act (EJA).

36,000 DIRECT CARE WORKERS NEEDED IN 2022

Collaborate with the State of Michigan, the aging network and other stakeholders to address the shortage of direct care workers. In a report issued in October 2020, Michigan State University researchers found our state is in immediate need of 36,000 direct care workers. Strategies should be pursued to improve the recruitment, training, and wages of the workers who provide essential direct care for older adults and people living with a disability.

PROTECT LOW-INCOME, IMMIGRANT AND LGBTQ+ OLDER ADULTS

The Senior Alliance supports policies and appropriations to expand outreach, resource information, and services to underserved populations, including low-income, racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, refugees, isolated individuals, and those identifying as LGBTQ+.

PROSECUTE OFFENDERS OF ELDER ABUSE

Support the work of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program by increasing Older Americans Act Title VII funding to at least \$35 million in the federal budget. COVID-19 has painfully shone a spotlight on those living in institutional and congregate housing facilities. Long-Term Care Ombudsmen (LTCO) are advocates focused on the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals living in facility settings.