

Advocacy Platform 2023

WE DO THIS FOR OUR COMMUNITY. THAT INCLUDES YOU.

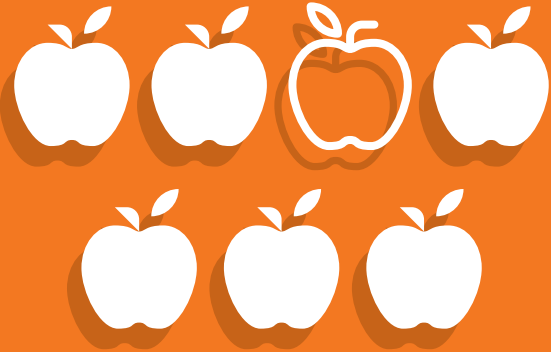
Community impact goes further when
we work together to make a change.



The Senior
Alliance™

800-815-1112 | advocacy@thesenioralliance.org

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



Increase the MDHHS FY 24 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 24 budget line item for ACLS Bureau community services to address longstanding waitlists.

**UBER EATS DRIVERS MAKE MORE
THAN DIRECT CARE WORKERS**

**\$3.85
PER HOUR INCREASE**

Support the Governor's proposal to increase Direct Care Worker wage support by \$1.50/hour for a total of \$3.85/hour.

**1 IN 5 MICHIGAN ADULTS PROVIDES
UNPAID CARE OR ASSISTANCE TO A
FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER.**



Establish Caregiver Resource Centers across Michigan's AAA network.



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



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ELIMINATE WAITLISTS FOR IN-HOME & NUTRITION SERVICES

Increase the in-home and nutrition services line items within the MDHHS budget for Fiscal Year 2024 to continue progress toward addressing the expanding aging demographic and the goal of making Michigan a “no-wait state.”

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS

Ensure caregivers receive the support needed to continue providing care for older adults in the community. Increase federal investments in National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFSCP) to \$388 million. Establish Caregiver Resource Centers across Michigan’s Area Agency on Aging network.

INCREASE MI CHOICE WAIVER FUNDING TO SUPPORT DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE

Increase the MI Choice Medicaid Waiver appropriation focused on raising rates paid to the in-home services vendor network that provides direct care services. Increased service delivery rates are needed to attract employees, giving more adults with a nursing home level of care need the choice to receive care in their home. Pursue strategies to improve the recruitment, training, wages, and retainment of direct care workers who provide essential care for older adults and people living with a disability.

COLLABORATE WITH USAgIng AND DO MORE

Partner with USAgIng, our national Area Agency on Aging association, to advocate in support of their annual Policy Priorities.

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 & SSI
- Older Americans Act
- Veterans Administration
- Nutrition
- Housing Assistance
- Transportation
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

ADD MENA DEFINITION TO U.S. CENSUS

Add Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) to the federally recognized demographic categories. The more than five million MENA Americans living in the U.S. are categorized as "white", which leads to underserving and underrepresentation.

ESTABLISH AN OFFICE ON AGING POLICY

Establish the White House Office on Aging Policy within the Domestic Policy Council to provide centralized leadership and vision for aging policy in preparation for the rapidly aging U.S. population.

EMPLOY AN EQUITABLE APPROACH TO FUNDING

Employ an equitable approach to reviewing the Intrastate Funding Formula, including preservation of the current funding formula factors and a phased, multi-year implementation of funding changes.

ADOPT A COUNTY-WIDE SENIOR SERVICES MILLAGE

Adopt a county-wide senior services millage in Wayne County to address unmet needs, eliminate waitlists, and expand services for older adults.

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. Michigan is in immediate need of 36,000 direct care workers. Pursue strategies to improve the recruitment, training, and wages of the workers who provide essential direct care for older adults and people living with a disability.

1 IN 7 OLDER ADULTS DEAL WITH FOOD INSECURITY

Increase funding for home-delivered and congregate meals to meet the needs of an expanding older adult population. More than 4,300 people receive one meal per day through our service area's weekday nutrition program.

SUPPORT FREE AND UNBIASED MEDICARE & MEDICAID INFO

Increase SHIP, known in Michigan as MMAP, funding in the federal budget to \$80 million. SHIP funding enables highly trained staff and volunteers to provide free, independent, and unbiased information about Medicare/Medicaid enrollment choices to thousands of older adults and caregivers in our service area every year.

INVEST IN ENHANCED OPTIONS COUNSELING

Invest in Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and statewide infrastructure to provide enhanced options counseling for better informed and empowered older adults, receiving care in the way they want. AAAs are experts on aging and local resources and have a central role in providing information and assistance on these topics.

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.

MEET THE RISING NEED IN TITLE III B PROGRAMS

Invest in vital Older Americans Act Title III B by growing the federal budget appropriation to \$797 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 services, such as Information & Assistance, Transportation, Care Management, and Legal Services.

31% OF MICHIGAN HOUSEHOLDS DON'T HAVE INTERNET ACCESS

Enact policies that enable all Michigan residents to have affordable access to broadband internet service.

PRESERVE & REBALANCE THE COMMUNITY-BASED LONG TERM SERVICES

Preserve and strengthen the Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) model of service delivery for individuals receiving long-term services and supports (LTSS) by building upon the successes achieved by Area Agencies on Aging in their role as administrators of the MI Choice Waiver program. Rebalance Medicaid LTSS funding so at least 60% goes to HCBS).

REAUTHORIZE AND MODERNIZE THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

Reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA) prior to its expiration at the end of FY 2024, inclusive of initiatives to modernize the act, strengthen the role of Area Agencies on Aging, allow local innovative approaches, and provide flexibility to deliver services. The OAA is the foundation of our nation's aging policy and the touchstone for the aging services network.

PROTECT LOW-INCOME, IMMIGRANT AND LGBTQ+ OLDER ADULTS

Expand outreach, resource information and services to underserved populations of older adults and caregivers, including low-income, racial, and ethnic minorities, immigrants, refugees, isolated individuals, and those identifying as LGBTQ+.

2.4 MILLION OLDER ADULTS FACE HOUSING INSECURITY

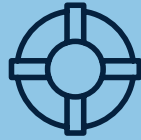
Support policies and appropriations to improve the accessibility and affordability of housing for older adults and people living with a disability, further enabling individuals to live in the community they choose.

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 elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect. Elder abuse is all too common with 1 in 10 older adults becoming the victims of abuse.



Funding for Home-Delivered Meals



Safety Net Programs



Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (SHIP)



Eliminate Wait Lists



Partner with USAging



Preserve & Rebalance MI Choice Waiver



Increase Workforce



Save with MI Choice Waiver



Public Review of MI Health Link



Grow Transportation



Expand Broadband Internet Access



Combat Elder Abuse



Elder Abuse Justice



Increase Outreach



Expand Housing

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start

the

conversation