

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LeadingAge® PA

[www.LeadinAgePA.org](http://www.LeadinAgePA.org)



**MITIGATE**  
the Workforce Crisis



**INVEST**  
in the Aging Services  
Continuum



**REMOVE**  
Barriers to Accessing  
Quality Care



## WHO WE ARE

LeadingAge PA represents 400+ high-quality, mission-driven aging services providers across Pennsylvania.

## ON A MISSION

Advocating to  
advance the  
evolving continuum  
of aging services in  
Pennsylvania





# ENSURING PA SENIORS HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY AGING SERVICES

## Mitigate the Workforce Crisis

- Expand the definition of care staff included in meeting minimum nursing home staffing thresholds to allow for other staff who contribute time to residents' daily care needs (not just nurses and nurse aides).
- Reform the nurse aide training program to, among other things:
  - Allow for additional training and certification of qualified nurse aides to become medication administration technicians in nursing facilities.
  - Align with federal requirements to recognize nurse aide instructors' prior experience in teaching adults or supervising nurse aides in lieu of taking a specified training course.
  - Explore pathways that would allow nursing students who have not yet taken their licensure exam to work as nurse aides.
- Continue to work with legislative leaders to address capacity and operational issues with the nurse aide credentialing system and remove other barriers to licensing critical care staff in a timely manner.
- Amend Act 128 of 2022, which requires temporary staffing agencies to register annually with the PA Department of Health and pay an annual registration fee of at least \$500, to include additional protections such as rate caps to guard against predatory pricing practices by these agencies.
- Implement the recommendation in the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Council's April 18, 2019 report, A Blueprint for Strengthening Pennsylvania's Direct Care Workforce, for the creation of a statewide public awareness campaign to emphasize the need to recruit and retain more aging services workers and the value of these professionals.

## Invest in the Aging Services Continuum

- Secure additional state funding for aging services to ensure access to needed care and supports for older adults, including Medicaid rate increases in the 2024-2025 state budget for nursing homes and the Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) Program.
- Provide Medicaid coverage for assisted living (AL) services and enable personal care homes interested in converting to AL to request physical site waivers for square footage and other physical site components.
- Support initiatives that invest in advancing the aging services infrastructure and workforce including clinical (CNA, LPN, and RN) and non-clinical (maintenance, culinary/dietary, housekeeping, etc.) positions.
- Ensure ongoing funding of the Pennsylvania Housing Tax Credit Program to address the shortage of affordable rental housing for low-income seniors.

## Remove Barriers to Accessing Quality Care

- Support commonsense tort reform measures, including, but not limited to, reinstating the prohibition on venue shopping in medical liability cases and amending the Fair Share Act to restore protections against disproportionate damages due to exceptions applied by the courts in recent years.
- Enhance protections for independent living communities and promote flexibility in a community's ability to offer personal care services to allow residents to age in place.
- Address high-priority issues identified by our members to eliminate antiquated, unnecessary, and overly burdensome regulations, policies, and guidance that do not enhance quality through legislative avenues where appropriate.
- Advocate against any new barriers imposed on the provision of quality aging services.

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