

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LeadingAge® PA

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 370+ high-quality, mission-driven aging services providers across Pennsylvania.

ON A MISSION

Advocating to advance the evolving continuum of aging services in Pennsylvania





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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, including a Medicaid nursing facility rate increase in the 2023-2024 state budget to address new regulatory staffing requirements and historical underfunding.
- 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 in response to proposals that would impose new barriers on the provision of aging services.

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