



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is LTSS Evolve?

Launched in May 2023, *LTSS Evolve* is a LeadingAge PA-led movement to ignite change within the aging services ecosystem and evolve the way care is delivered and regulated in Pennsylvania. Centered around direct input from mission-driven providers, *LTSS Evolve* will be the driving force behind LeadingAge PA's advocacy efforts to find modern regulatory and legislative solutions to redundant and outdated provisions.

### What is the vision for LTSS Evolve?

Our vision for *LTSS Evolve* is to lay a new foundation for long-term care in Pennsylvania – one which allows providers to play an active role in evolving how they care for older adults, with the goal of spending more time directly engaging with care recipients and being valued in their local communities and across the commonwealth.

### How will you approach this initiative?

LeadingAge PA aims to identify and address antiquated, redundant, and overly burdensome long-term services and supports (LTSS) rules, regulations, policies, and guidances by collaborating with policymakers and other stakeholders at the state level. These outdated requirements often result in unnecessary costs and impede the provision of true quality care by taking away valuable time and resources that could be better spent serving residents or participants.

### Why are you doing this?

Older adults – those who are recipients of long-term services and supports – are at the center of this movement's intentions. As we engage with aging services leaders and professional caregivers, we often spend time reflecting on their "why" – what motivates them to continue working in this field. Invariably, their "why" includes a deep sense of mission tied to personal experience with a loved one or resident who made a profound impact on their lives and careers. Even when the work is stressful or challenging, their "why" is what motivates them and what makes it so frustrating when arbitrary rules or regulations actually inhibit their ability to spend time with or provide true quality care for their residents and participants. We want to empower these dedicated providers to feel supported in caring for the older adults they are so passionate about helping in a genuine way.

Let us be clear: Our intention is not to create shortcuts or loopholes in the interest of saving time or money for providers. We are not looking to remove important protections for seniors. Rather, we aim to rethink the things that don't make sense in order to free up the people who care to dedicate more time and resources in direct benefit of those they serve.

### **How will you identify areas that need to change?**

LeadingAge PA's members will drive *LTSS Evolve's* priorities. We started by holding Listening Sessions with LeadingAge PA members (over 370 mission-driven providers of aging services) to collect feedback on those well-intentioned requirements that no longer make sense. Areas where caregivers know they could provide better quality care to those they serve if a provision was interpreted or executed a different way, or if an outdated provision was brought in alignment with current operational realities.

To ensure we are actively working on the right issues, we have assembled a team of 10 individuals from our membership, leaders in their own communities that represent different mission-driven aging services providers across the state. This Core Advisory Group has met regularly through the development of this effort and will continue to meet with LeadingAge PA's government affairs team to provide feedback and give approval to the way we collect input, strategize, and pursue various advocacy proposals.

### **How long will this project last?**

*LTSS Evolve* is intended to be an ongoing movement that can evolve over the years as priorities and needs change. We began collecting member input in Spring 2023 and officially launched the movement in May 2023. We will continue to gather input on an ongoing basis, and will utilize a Core Advisory Group to assist in re-evaluating the initiative regularly to ensure goals and strategies remain relevant each year moving forward.

### **How will you partner with stakeholders, state government, and the General Assembly?**

As we work through feedback we've received so far from various aging services providers and begin formulating plans for action, we will reach out for assistance and involvement from relevant groups as opportunities arise. We value the collaborative spirit we've seen that enables change when people come together and are willing to talk about challenging issues in an open and hopeful way.

### **How are you actually going to change anything?**

Issues to be addressed through *LTSS Evolve* are coming directly from providers. Frontline staff and their leadership teams are living these issues every day and spend the most time directly engaging with residents and recipients of services. Because we are drawing inspiration from their stories and experiences, the avenues for change will vary depending on the issue. We will engage legislators, state agencies and the administration to update legislation, interpretive guidelines, and regulations as applicable while partnering with other groups interested in making improvements for the benefit of the Commonwealth's older adult population.

### **Why LeadingAge PA?**

LeadingAge PA is uniquely positioned to lead this transformation in aging services. Representing over 370 mission-driven providers of aging services ranging from hospice to home care, skilled nursing to personal care and assisted living, Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE), and more, we have the perspective and connections to understand where and how change needs to be achieved to establish a sustainable aging services ecosystem and maximize the choices and access available to Pennsylvania's seniors for quality care.

### **Who do I contact if I have more questions?**

LeadingAge PA's Director of Regulatory Affairs, Anna Warheit, is organizing this effort. You can contact her at [awarheit@leadingagepa.org](mailto:awarheit@leadingagepa.org) with questions or if you'd like to be involved!