

Legislative Priorities

The Washington State Council on Aging develops, each year, a set of priorities for consideration during the Legislative and Congressional sessions. Of the ten identified priorities WASCOA will support in 2017, the top seven legislative priorities are:

- ◆ Increase the numbers of Area Agency on Aging case management staff to decrease client case ratios enabling better management of increasingly complex clients.
- ◆ Passage of legislation to increase penalties for abuse and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.
- ◆ Restoration of adequate funding to keep the Long Term Care Ombudsman program operating.
- ◆ Support implementation of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver.
- ◆ Support improvements in State Guardianship programs.
- ◆ Support expansion of Health Homes.
- ◆ Support reinstatement of the Medicaid coverage for adult hearing and vision hardware/services.

The Washington State Council on Aging

www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services/washington-state-council-aging-scoa

Have more questions?
Please call 800-422-3263

Council meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of eight months each year.

*We are a voice for
all Seniors in
Washington State*



The Washington State Council on Aging

Mission:

We speak in one voice to advise the Governor and associated state agencies on policies, programs, services and opportunities to support older persons.

Vision:

That all older adults will be able to remain in their home or a community based setting for as long as is prudent & continue to be engaged with and contribute to their communities, & that those who have the most need will have access to services that provide choice, independence & dignity.

Who are we...

We are a respected advisory group and a unified voice across Washington. Members must be 55+ years old, with the majority being at least age 60, who are experienced in aging issues. Members are appointed by the Governor, the 13 Area Agencies on Aging, and the Associations of Cities and of Counties. Additionally, up to two members from each chamber of the Legislature are named by their respective leadership.

What we do...

We are charged with advising the Governor, the Department of Social & Health Services Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Aging & Long Term Support Administration on matters affecting all seniors and disabled persons.

Because our membership is geographically diverse, we have built-in communication and out-reach platforms that reach all corners of our state.

Why this is important...

Heard of the Age Wave? By the year 2025, the 65 year old plus population in Washington State will more than double, the 85 year old plus will increase by 19%...that's a major shift in demographics!

Washington State will face many challenges in meeting the needs of this population shift...housing, transportation, healthcare, long term care support and services, economic security, and community opportunities for seniors, to name a few. **We need to be prepared!**

How you can help...

- ◇ **Input:** The members of the Council are seeking input from Washington citizens. What do you see as the problems we should be addressing? What are the potential solutions we should be exploring? Council meetings are open to everyone! Call 800-422-3263 for dates and location of meetings.
- ◇ **Education:** Help us spread the word. WASCOA members are prepared to speak locally to groups about our mission and vision for the future of seniors in Washington.
- ◇ **Advocacy:** Understand the Council's view on statewide issues and legislative priorities. Be willing and prepared to support us by contacting your legislators and local officials on the issues facing our state and local communities.

