



## We Also Support:

- ◆ Adequate funding for **Elder Abuse Prevention** programs and policies
- ◆ Affordable, available, and accessible **Housing** options
- ◆ Policies that empower **Family Caregivers**
- ◆ Expansion of **Telehealth** benefits and equal access to broadband internet
- ◆ Flexible and affordable **Transportation** options
- ◆ Policies that enable **Age Friendly** communities



### Older Michiganians Day Steering Committee

Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan  
AARP Michigan  
Alzheimer's Association

Michigan Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging  
Michigan Senior Advocates Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Senior Corps Volunteer Programs of Michigan (FGP, SCP & RSVP)

# OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

*Presented by Area Agencies on Aging  
and Aging Network Partners*

## Platform for Legislative Action



# May 15, 2019

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## Rebalance Medicaid Long Term Care

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The MI Choice Medicaid Waiver program empowers 15,000 older adults and adults with a disability to live independently in their own home. Individuals enrolled in MI Choice need nursing facility level of care, which is provided in-home through a network of community-based service providers. Over 3,200 Michiganders remain on wait lists for MI Choice.

- Rebalance Medicaid long term services and supports (LTSS) spending by increasing the percentage of funding allocated to the MI Choice Waiver program. Michigan currently spends only 40% of its LTSS dollars on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) as compared to the national average of 57%.
- Preserve and protect the program, and expand the role of Area Agencies on Aging, MI-Choice Waiver Agents, and other established providers as long-standing experts within the continuum of Medicaid long-term supports and services (LTSS) programs.

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## Support the Direct Care Workforce

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Address the shortage of direct care workers providing long-term care to Michigan seniors by supporting policies that recruit, train, and provide adequate wages. In Michigan, home care workers have a median income of \$10,000. Nearly 30% of direct care workers have household incomes below the federal poverty level.

- Establish professional standards, training requirements, and certification.
- Include direct care workers in MI talent development initiatives.
- Raise the Medicaid cap.
- Develop additional funding streams to increase wages and training opportunities.
- Include direct care worker services in state Medicaid contracts.

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## Support AASA In-Home Services

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Research shows seniors who receive in-home services are five times less likely to have been in a nursing home than those who remained on a wait list. Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) funded in-home services include home delivered meals, personal care, homemaking and respite provided through the aging network.

- Support the Silver Key Coalition's request for a \$6 million increase in AASA's FY 2020 budget to support the 6,274 seniors on waiting lists for in-home and nutrition services.

Investment in services for seniors has cut the wait list for home delivered meals  
**IN HALF**

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## Promote a Dementia Capable Michigan

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More than half a million family members in Michigan are caring for loved ones with Alzheimer's or other dementias. It is estimated that 190,000 Michiganders age 65 and older have Alzheimer's. Support policies that align with the priorities in the state plan, which are:

- Promote the well-being and safety of people living with dementia at all ages and stages.
- Recognize dementia as a public health priority.
- Mobilize multidisciplinary partnerships to strengthen the service providing network.
- Enact policies to strengthen families, communities, and the economy to achieve a dementia capable Michigan.