



King County Area Agency on Aging
Aging & Disability Services Advisory Council

2016 State Legislative Priorities

Protect and Strengthen Our Communities for the Future

We Appreciate Your Support for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

During the 2015 legislative session, this support included:

- Partial restoration of lost Case Management capacity, and
- Funding for a long term care financing study, one of the recommendations from the Joint Legislative Executive Committee (JLEC) on Aging.

We Need Your Continued Support

Washington's 65+ population is increasing and will represent 20% of the state's population by 2030, with ages 85+ growing the fastest. Trends indicate that 30% of that population will be affected by Alzheimer's disease or related dementias.

To prepare for this Age Wave, during the 2016 session and in coming years, **we need your help in creating elder friendly communities** that support people of all ages to be healthy, active and engaged.



Increase system capacity for aging services

The Great Recession forced deep cuts in community long-term services and supports programs while the need for these services has been increasing. To meet the growing demand, home and community-based providers need long overdue rate increases and an additional 440,000 paid home care workers will be needed. Implementing the State Alzheimer's Plan will also be critical for system capacity.



Support Caregivers

Of the estimated 850,000 unpaid family caregivers in Washington state, only a fraction access family caregiver support programs. Expanding funding options that support family caregivers and kinship caregivers will be essential for preserving the backbone of our cost-effective long-term support system.



Increase options for housing and transportation

Affordable housing and transportation options are essential to the health and economic security of our older citizens and to the vitality of our communities. Proactive planning is needed to promote age friendly livable communities where people of all ages and abilities can afford to live, thrive and contribute.



Protect vulnerable adults from abuse

Reports of elder abuse, particularly financial exploitation, have increased dramatically in recent years. We need to ensure the necessary safeguards are in place to prevent the abuse of our most vulnerable citizens and that our systems are prepared to respond effectively to incidents of abuse.

2016 Legislation Impacting Older Adults and People with Disabilities

In partnership with the Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) and Washington Senior Lobby, the King County Advisory Council for Aging & Disability Services requests your support on the following legislation:

Bill #	Description / Topic Area
1499-S2	Strengthens criminal statutes for abuse of vulnerable adults to include financial exploitation; increases penalties for abuse; and creates multidisciplinary teams to consult with one another and share records that are relevant to the prevention or treatment of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.
SB 6327 “The Care Act”	Provide family caregivers with information and training to help their loved ones transition from hospital to home , and prevent costly readmissions or placement in skilled nursing facilities. Caregivers will be notified of hospital discharge, and given instruction on medical tasks needed at home. Nineteen states have passed similar bills.
HB 1725 SB 5709	Support and fully fund DSHS to implement policies regarding overtime pay for Individual Providers (IP) who provide in-home care to Medicaid Case Management clients.
Budget Medicaid Hearing Coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$600,000 GF• \$2M Federal match LTCOP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$175,000• Supports 150 new volunteers	Medicaid coverage for hearing aids will significantly improve the health and quality of life of older adults, resulting in overall health care savings. Coverage was cut in 2010 for persons aged 21 and older. Twenty-six states cover the cost of hearing aids through Medicaid. More than half the population ages 75+ have significant hearing loss, which is associated with depression, poor health status, loss of independence and cognitive decline. Protect vulnerable citizens from abuse, neglect and exploitation by investing in the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP). This funding will restore critical capacity, which was lost during the great recession, to train, recruit and supervise volunteers.

For questions or more information, please contact:

- Maureen Linehan, ADS Director, 206-684-0104, Maureen.Linehan@seattle.gov
- Gigi Meinig, Advisory Council Staff Liaison, 206-684-0652, Gigi.Meinig@seattle.gov

King County Advisory Council for Aging & Disability Services

Mailing Address: PO Box 34215, Seattle WA 98124-4215

Office Address: Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Ave, 51st Floor

TEL 206-684-0660 • FAX 206-684-0689 • TDD Relay Service: 711 • www.agingkingcounty.org/

An equal opportunity employer. Accommodations for persons with disabilities provided upon request.