



Area Agency on Aging 1-B

# Legislative Platform

2023-2024

## MI CHOICE MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAM

The AAA 1-B advocates for increased funding for the MI-Choice Medicaid Waiver Program to ensure that program rates reflect the increased costs of providing care. The MI Choice program should be maintained and strengthened as a key component of Michigan's long-term supports and services (LTSS) system.

## REBALANCE MICHIGAN LONG-TERM CARE SPENDING

Michigan spends only 43% of Medicaid long-term supports and services funds on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), far below the national average of HCBS spending of 59%. The AAA 1-B supports efforts to rebalance Michigan's long-term spending to support HCBS.

## SILVER KEY IN-HOME SERVICES

The AAA 1-B supports the Silver Key Coalition in advocating for increased state resources to address unmet needs for non-Medicaid in-home services and home delivered meals funded by the Bureau of Aging, Community Living, and Supports.

## SUPPORT UNPAID FAMILY AND KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

The AAA 1-B supports policies that provide family caregivers and kinship caregivers with financial security and other resources needed to continue providing care to their loved ones, including the development of Caregiver Resource Centers in Area Agencies on Aging across the state.

## MEDICAID LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

The AAA 1-B advocates that plans, demonstration programs and future pilot programs for the delivery of managed long-term supports and services (LTSS) build on the success of Area Agencies on Aging and include Area Agencies on Aging as a required partner in the provision of LTSS.

## SUPPORT DIRECT CARE WORKERS

The AAA 1-B supports policies that dedicate resources to recruit, train, retain, and provide adequate wages to direct care workers, who are an essential component of providing quality in-home care.

## LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

The AAA 1-B advocates for increased funding for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program. The AAA 1-B supports policies that address the needs of long-term care facility residents served by AAA 1-B Ombudsman.

## SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The AAA 1-B advocates for initiatives that support and strengthen Information and Assistance Programs provided by local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). Options Counseling initiatives should build on the expertise of Area Agencies on Aging.



## **SOCIAL ISOLATION REDUCTION**

The AAA 1-B supports programs and policies that reduce social isolation in older adults and provide technology access and training to all older adults.

## **PRESERVE MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

The AAA 1-B supports policies that preserve and strengthen Medicare and Social Security, providing financial security and health to older adults.

## **ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION**

The AAA 1-B advocates for policies that prevent physical, psychological, and financial abuse and neglect of vulnerable older adults and adults with disabilities.

## **REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS**

The AAA 1-B supports policies that help older adults mitigate the impact of rising healthcare costs, including efforts to control the cost of prescription drugs, expand access to telehealth, and improve transparency of healthcare costs.

## **OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA)**

The AAA 1-B supports USAging's recommendation to double all OAA program funding. OAA regulations should continue to be modernized, ensuring local flexibility to best meet the needs of Older Americans.

## **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

The AAA 1-B emphasizes outreach to traditionally underserved low-income minority communities including racial/ethnic minority, LGBT, socially isolated, and immigrant/refugee populations.

## **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY**

The AAA 1-B supports the development and preservation of affordable, accessible housing so older adults and people with disabilities can continue to live in their communities as they age.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The AAA 1-B supports policies that provide adequate and sustainable funding for public transportation and mobility management services.

*The Area Agency on Aging 1-B is a nonprofit agency serving and advocating on behalf of older adults and adults with disabilities residing in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw Counties. The agency helps these individuals and their family caregivers maintain their health and independence by administering home and community based services.*

*Each year the Area Agency on Aging 1-B develops a set of legislative priorities for the upcoming fiscal year to guide advocacy efforts to support older adults in Michigan. Advocacy efforts are both legislative and administrative and are targeted toward local, state, and federal legislators representing the more than 800,000 older adults in our 6-county region.*

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