

Area Agency on Aging 1-B



AgeWays Legislative Platform 2025 and 2026

MI CHOICE PROGRAM

AgeWays advocates for structural improvements to the MI-Choice Program to better serve participants and support waiver agents alongside transparent program rates that reflect the true 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 30% of Medicaid long-term supports and services funds on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), far below the national average of HCBS spending of 70%. AgeWays supports efforts to rebalance Michigan's long-term spending to increase access to HCBS.

SUPPORT UNPAID FAMILY AND KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

AgeWays supports policies that provide family and kinship caregivers with financial security and other resources needed to continue providing care to their loved ones. This includes the development of Caregiver Resource Centers across the state.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT (OAA)

AgeWays supports US Aging's funding recommendations and policy priorities. OAA regulations should continue to be modernized, ensuring local flexibility to best meet the needs of Older Americans.

MEDICAID LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

AgeWays 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

AgeWays 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.

SILVER KEY IN-HOME SERVICES

AgeWays 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 AND STRENGTHEN INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

AgeWays 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

AgeWays 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

AgeWays supports policies that preserve and strengthen Medicare and Social Security, providing financial security and health to older adults.

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

AgeWays advocates for policies that prevent physical, psychological, and financial abuse and neglect of vulnerable older adults and adults with disabilities.

REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS

AgeWays 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.

LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN

AgeWays supports policies and resources to strengthen the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program to address the needs of long-term care facility residents.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

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

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

AgeWays 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

AgeWays supports policies that provide adequate and sustainable funding for public transportation and mobility management services.

AgeWays Nonprofit Senior Services 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 AgeWays 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.

For more information contact Stephanie Hall, Director of Planning & Advocacy, shall@ageways.org or by phone at (248) 915-6065