

LeadingAge New York and its members will advocate at the state and federal levels to ensure funding and policies that support long-term/post-acute care (LTPAC) and senior services, focusing efforts on the areas below. These efforts include budget, legislative, regulatory, and administrative advocacy.

### **BUDGET ADVOCACY**

- Seek a 20 percent Medicaid rate increase for nursing homes to recognize years of underfunding, new COVID-related and staffing costs, as well as inflation, while working to transition to a new rate-setting methodology, aligned with the federal acuity adjustment system, that will promote high quality, ensure access, and increase efficiency.
- Advocate for other provider Medicaid and rate increases, and SSP rate increase for adult care facilities (ACFs), to support competitive wages and benefits, address sharply rising costs, and years without a meaningful cost of living adjustment.
- Ensure that state workforce initiatives prioritize and incentivize working in long term care and aging settings and include employment-related supports.
- Modify the EQUAL program for ACFs to address administrative process challenges.
- Advocate for the creation and funding of an Affordable Independent Senior Housing Resident Assistance Program to provide information, referral and supports to older adults in affordable housing.
- Preserve long-term care provider-based MLTC plans, fighting off any competitive procurement proposal, and advocate for repeal or curtailment of independent assessor.
- Advocate for state investment in development and redevelopment of housing affordable to middle-income older adults.

### **LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ADVOCACY**

#### **Cross-Sector Measures**

- Continue work on flexibilities to facilitate aide training, certification and licensure.
- Oppose requirements that will exacerbate workforce challenges without contributing to quality.
- Advocate for the reduction of onerous and burdensome reporting, including the daily HERDS reporting for nursing homes and ACFs, and weekly reporting for home care and hospice.

In addition to cross-sector measures, below are service-line specific priorities:

#### **Adult Care Facility/Assisted Living**

- Allow nurses working in ACF and assisted living settings to provide nursing services directly.
- Fight off efforts to increase fines and penalties.

#### **Affordable Housing**

- Collaborate with the State's ConnectALL Office to drive investments in broadband infrastructure, service, and training to affordable multifamily senior housing properties and ensure reliable, high-quality broadband access for vulnerable and low-income New Yorkers.

- Work with our national partners to expand, preserve, and improve the portfolio of HUD and USDA affordable housing that meets seniors' needs and to support federal processes, policies, and protocols that allow for the operation of high-quality affordable senior housing.

### **Continuing Care Retirement Community**

- Explore options with state agencies to identify ways in which review and approval processes can be expedited and simplified to eliminate barriers to the development, expansion and efficient operation of CCRCs in New York.
- Work with the Department of Health to update CCRC regulations and outsource triennial review.
- Increase priority reservation fee caps.
- Respond to DFS Cybersecurity regulations, raising member perspective and recommendations.

### **Home and Community-Based Services**

- Repeal licensed home care services agency (LHCSA) Medicaid RFO.
- Pass federal Preserve Access to Home Health Care and HEAT - home health telehealth reimbursement legislation

### **MLTC/PACE**

- Advocate for appropriate rates, rationalization of enrollment caps, and policies that support PACE and provider-sponsored integrated plans.

### **Nursing Home**

- Authorize medication technicians to work in nursing homes.
- Ensure appropriate and rapid distribution of funding to support minimum staffing requirements.
- Secure amendments to recently-enacted laws to address flaws, including medical debt collection limits, 90-day prior notice of contracts, and minimum staffing hours and minimum spending requirements.

### **Retirement Housing**

- Educate policymakers on the role of retirement housing and identify opportunities for enhanced partnerships with state and local governments.
- Monitor proposals affecting entrance fee and rental retirement housing communities and advocate for policies that recognize and support the continued viability of these unique models.