

O4AD Legislative Priorities – 2022 Session

Preserve the investments in long term services and supports made via actions by the 2021 Legislative session and Federal relief funds. Oregon has the opportunity to utilize these funds to not only meet the current needs but lay the groundwork for the future of our once heralded system of long-term care. Accountability by the Oregon Department of Human Services to effectively implement the many programs and investments requires integrating with the network of care in Oregon including Area Agencies on Aging. Addressing immediate challenges, sustaining care and supports and preparing for further challenges are critical priorities .

- Successful and timely implementation of services and supports investments for older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon via the 2021 Legislative allocations
- New programs to be implemented from Federal COVID and ARPA funding
- Support for home care workers and client employers in new policy implementation
- Thoughtful implementation of policy to best support field staff

Protect – the independence, dignity, choice and safety of Oregon’s older adults and people with disabilities. The pandemic has highlighted the intense need for strong adult protective services, robust, person-centered case management, housing stability, options for care in home and in the community, behavioral health supports, improving the effectiveness of Oregon’s Medicaid system, and attention to the workforce challenges facing long term care. When we invest in our system and network, we rise to the needs of our older adults and people with disabilities. Current investments and program development must be sustained into the future to meet the growing demand.

- Workload impacts of policy changes - ONE and Provider Time Capture
- Post – COVID planning for program allocations and sustaining current service level.
- Service Equity
- Social Isolation programs and supports

Plan – for thoughtful and effective program, services, and investments to meet the growing needs of our vulnerable neighbors, family and friends. Oregon’s aging population continues to grow faster than the nation as a whole. By 2030, one in five Oregonians will be over the age of 65. Twenty-six percent of Oregonians have a disability or one in four adults, or over a quarter of the state’s population.

- Increase options for person centered care in the home and community – via workforce and network capacity growth
- Behavioral health – improving resources for direct services
- Medicaid long term services and supports – supporting and strengthening the infrastructure that enables seniors and people with disabilities to access care via Medicaid
- Oregon Project Independence sustainability and expansion
- Increasing affordable AND accessible housing options
- Prioritize equity in our approach to long term services and supports – taking into consideration race, ethnicity, geography, age, gender, socio-economic and other disparities that exist in our state.

