

## What Can Advocates Do?

- Understand the issues facing older adults and adults with disabilities
- Study Senators' and Representatives' stands on related issues
- Call, e-mail or request a personal meeting with your Legislators

## What Can Legislators Do?

- Sponsor and support legislation to support this platform
- Attend Older Michiganians Day and meet with your constituents who have traveled for the rally
- Commit to government transparency and open dialogue in the legislative process

## Older Michiganians Day Steering Committee

Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan  
AARP Michigan  
Alzheimer's Association  
Michigan Association of Nutrition Aging Service Providers  
Michigan Association of Senior Centers  
Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging  
Michigan Senior Advocates Council  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society-Michigan Chapter  
Senior Volunteer Programs of Michigan



# OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

## A Voice for Michigan's Aging



## 2015 Sponsors



## PLATFORM For Legislative Action 2015-2016

## Improve Access to Affordable Long-Term Supports and Services

### **Eliminate Wait Lists for MI Choice**

Support Governor Snyder's recommendation to expand MI Choice Home and Community-Based Waiver services, ensuring coordinated long-term care services for low-income individuals age 18 and older to live in their own home instead of a nursing home.



- There are 2 million older adults 60+ in Michigan - 1/5 the population.
- 85+ is the fastest growing group; a 102% increase is projected by 2030.

### **Eliminate Wait Lists for Home and Community-Based Services**

Continue progress toward supporting Michigan's Aging Network providers by fulfilling commitment to make Michigan a no-wait state for home and community-based services; increase funding for the Aging & Adult Services Agency (AASA) by \$3 million in FY 2016 and \$2 million in FY 2017.

### **Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Expansion**

Support Governor Snyder's recommendation to expand PACE programs. PACE provides a complete package of coordinated health and long-term care services for people age 55 and older on both Medicare and Medicaid.

## Elder Abuse Prevention

Continue to support adequate funding for elder abuse prevention programs and adequate staff for Adult Protective Services.

- Nearly 100,000 cases of elder abuse were reported in 2012.
- 66% of perpetrators are family members.

## Improve Accessibility for Seniors in the Community

### **Home Accessibility**

Support legislation to provide a tax credit of up to \$5,000 to make homes more accessible, so seniors can afford to pay for home improvements that increase safety and accessibility, help prevent falls, and make caregiving tasks more manageable.

### **Transportation**

Support transportation options that are affordable, accessible and flexible so seniors can maintain a quality of life in their communities.

## Support Caregivers

### **Support Family Caregivers**

Support passage of the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act to support and equip family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital and as they transition home. The CARE Act requires hospitals to allow patients to designate a family caregiver and provide him or her with adequate care instructions at hospital discharge.

### **Dementia Care and Support**

Invest in the Michigan Dementia Care and Support Pilot Project (\$150,000 in FY 2016 and FY 2017), and support a State Dementia Plan to address issues related to caregiving, primary care, long-term care, and public awareness about the disease.

- Unpaid caregivers provide 90% of the care enabling older adults and people with disabilities to avoid institutionalization.
- At any given time, there more than 2 million family caregivers in Michigan. They provide 1.4 billion hours of unpaid care a year, valued at more than 15.5 billion.
- Nearly 12% of adults age 60+ and 45% of adults age 85+ have dementia.

