Facts About the Connecticut Commission on Aging

Did you know? CT is the 7th oldest state in the nation and our population of 65+ is projected to grow by 64% from 2006-2030!

Our mission is to serve as an objective, credible source of information on issues affecting Connecticut’s older adults, to prepare our state for the needs of its soaring older adult population and to provide accountability within state government.

Who we are: Created in 1993, and moved to the Legislative Branch in 2005, the Connecticut Commission on Aging (CGS §17b-420) is a non-partisan research and public policy agency located at the State Capitol. The Connecticut Commission on Aging utilizes Results-Based Accountability in all of its work.

What we do (a sample):

- **Lead public/private-sector efforts** to promote public policy reflecting best practices and national trends on multi-faceted aging issues including: health care, long-term care, transportation, financial security, housing, employment, and many others;

- **Leads efforts to streamline Medicaid long-term care services and supports**, which represent 13% of the state budget.

- **Present solutions and savings**, including finding $11 million of untapped new federal funds (in May 2009), and in general recommendations that can save the state hundreds of millions of dollars annually;

- **Review and comment on state departmental policies, procedures, structures and outcomes** that affect older adults and persons with disabilities, providing accountability and objectivity.

- **Analyze demographic, economic and service delivery trends** in aging, delivering objective research and generating reports to guide sound public policy;

- **Develop and comment on legislative proposals** and testify before the Connecticut General Assembly;

- **Prepare Connecticut for the changing demographics** that will impact nearly every facet of society.

- **Establish and maintain partnerships with diverse stakeholders**, including the business community, non-profits and governmental entities.

- **Empower people**, working with state partners to create, maintain, and promote CT’s Long-Term Care Website (www.ct.gov/longtermcare);

- **Reach out statewide to thousands of Connecticut residents**, including holding Town Hall meetings, hosting public informational forums, and serving as an objective resource to policymakers.

For more information, please contact the Connecticut Commission on Aging, at 860-240-5200.
Recent successes (a sample):

- CoA brought in $11 million (and growing) of untapped federal funds (though MFP).
- CoA successfully worked to remove a barrier in state law that has positioned CT to receive millions of federal HUD dollars.
- CoA was elected co-chair of the Money Follows the Person Steering Committee, a public-private partnership that advises on the implementation of this multimillion dollar federal-state program.
- CoA is leading efforts to analyze federal funding opportunities in long-term care as a result of the Affordable Care Act (national health care reform).
- CoA oversaw the completion of the state’s first comprehensive Long-Term Care Needs Assessment - a roadmap to planning for the future needs in our state - and leads promotion of the recommendations that could save CT hundreds of millions of dollars per year, according to research performed by the UConn Center on Aging, the State’s LTC Planning Committee, and the Regional Institute for the 21st Century.
- CoA co-chairs, leads, and manages the legislatively-mandated Long-Term Care Advisory Council, a diverse group of advocates, providers, and consumers (older adults and persons with disabilities) providing a collective voice and direction to long-term care issues in the state.
- CoA drafted and helped pass legislation (PA 10-17) that would safeguard personal information of older adults who attend senior centers.
- CoA has on several occasions presented various cost-saving and efficiency proposals to the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes.
- CoA created, chairs and manages the CT Elder Action Network, a dynamic group of leaders in the field of aging in Connecticut;
- CoA conducted several studies (without any additional funding), on topics such as the aging workforce, property taxes and economic security.
- CoA improves access to information for older adults, persons with disabilities, families and caregivers: working with OPM, created and maintains the state’s Long-Term Care web site. The web site received over 60,000 visits last year alone and is now considered the online single-point of entry in the state.

From a budget perspective:

- CoA fills a nonpartisan leadership role within the state, including serving in an advisory capacity to the CT General Assembly and the Governor.
- CoA has 21 unpaid members – from communities across the state and with diverse disciplines – who volunteer their time and expertise to guide, inform, and add dimension to its work.
- The extremely modest budget (.001% of the state budget) of $256,071 for its state Capitol-based four-person staff delivers a sound and wise investment in Connecticut’s future.
- Any objective assessment of the CoA’s performance reveals that it is a low-cost, highly efficient and effective agency. This is fully illustrated in its Results-Based Accountability report submitted to the Appropriations Committee in January 2010.
- Our oversight directly relates to the largest component of the state budget – Medicaid (representing 13% of the overall state budget).

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