

# INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING 2022 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

Safe and secure at home. From the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability to live and age safely and securely in our own homes has proven to be a matter of life and death for older adults, people with disabilities and other at-risk Hoosiers.

Indiana's Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have been critical to the state's COVID-19 response and recovery by expertly managing social determinants of health for Hoosiers requiring assistance to remain at home. In 2021, we made more than 56,000 vaccine contacts with nearly 12,000 vaccine appointments registered.

We are a significant component of Indiana's long-term services and supports system. Our populations of concern include older adults, persons of any age with disabilities, and vulnerable adults at risk for abuse, neglect and exploitation, their families and caregivers. Serving all 92 Indiana counties, we offer an established solution to manage risk, enhance health outcomes and control health care costs.

AAA core services include information and referral, options counseling, case management and nutrition. Through a comprehensive, person-centered and needs-based approach, staff work with a diverse group of individuals and their support systems to identify needs for supportive services, develop plans to address those needs, coordinate services and referrals. The result is long-term solutions that benefit consumers and the state. Depending on the assistance required, in-home services can save nearly \$55,000 annually per person over the cost of nursing facility care.

## IN 2022, YOU WILL SEE US AT THE INDIANA STATEHOUSE WORKING ON THESE ISSUES:

**CHOICE BUDGET AND ITS USE**

**ELDER JUSTICE**

**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

**GUARDIANSHIP AND LESS  
RESTRICTIVE ALTERNATIVES**

**FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORTS  
AND CONCERNS**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**DEMENTIA-RELATED INITIATIVES**

**RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION**

**IN-HOME CARE WORKFORCE**

**BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY  
AND DIGITAL INCLUSION**

As Indiana's experts, we can answer your questions on these issues and more. Contact your local AAA at 800.986.3505 or visit [www.iaaaa.org](http://www.iaaaa.org) for more information.

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# INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING A NECESSARY PART OF THE MLTSS SOLUTION



The State of Indiana has launched a Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) initiative with the goal of providing Hoosiers access to home and community-based services at the right time and in the right place.

But Medicaid is complex, and Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) waivers are more complex. Adding managed care to LTSS has the potential to increase that complexity for consumers and local service providers who deliver critical services to this high-need population. Hoosiers shouldn't have to become Medicaid experts just to get the care and services they need.

Indiana's fifteen Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), established in 1973 under the federal Older Americans Act, currently serve as the backbone of today's coordinated, person-centered LTSS system, and have been helping consumers and their caregivers navigate this maze for almost 50 years. The AAAs serve Hoosiers in all 92 counties, and have deep local roots, knowledge and relationships.

Hoosiers' needs should be at the center of any future MLTSS system. Other states promise person-centered coordinated care through MLTSS, but what consumers

actually experience can be a bewildering web of hand-offs, bureaucracies, changing expectations and inconsistencies.

Indiana has the opportunity to create a new, unique, and superior approach through which the AAAs provide consumers with a single point of access for navigation and service coordination with the consumer as an independent, knowledgeable resource to ensure Hoosiers receive accurate information and guidance.

This begins with basic program education and a consistent level of care assessment all the way through day-to-day service planning and coordination of needs. We can do this by requiring that:

1. Indiana's AAAs continue to be at the center of effective, coordinated and efficient LTSS for any individual designated by the state as having a potential need for supports with activities of daily living.
2. Managed Care Entities (MCEs) refer all new Medicaid enrollees within the state-designated LTSS categories to the AAAs.
3. The AAAs be designated as the providers of initial screening, level of care assessment, options counseling, service coordination, care planning and systems navigation for these individuals, and paid at adequate and competitive rates.



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