

HELP STRUGGLING MINNESOTANS. SUPPORT CARE FOR SENIORS.

Minnesota's long-term care sector has reached a critical point. The state's senior population continues to rise while we face an ongoing and severe workforce shortage, making it increasingly difficult for seniors to find care where they live.



Today, **17,000** caregiver positions in our senior care settings remain unfilled, with one in five nursing homes reporting that they have vacant positions.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature invested \$300 million in one-time nursing home funding. This critical funding has helped to temporarily preserve access to care for older adults across Minnesota. However, the state continues to underinvest in our seniors – even as demand for care continues to rise.

Minnesotans Agree – Care Comes First

Every senior in Minnesota deserves access to the housing, care and support that they need in their home communities. Likewise, caregivers in nursing homes and assisted living facilities deserve wages that reflect the challenging work they do.

The State of Minnesota is our partner in caring for our one million seniors. Permanent and comprehensive funding increases will help secure access to care for older adults in every corner of the state.



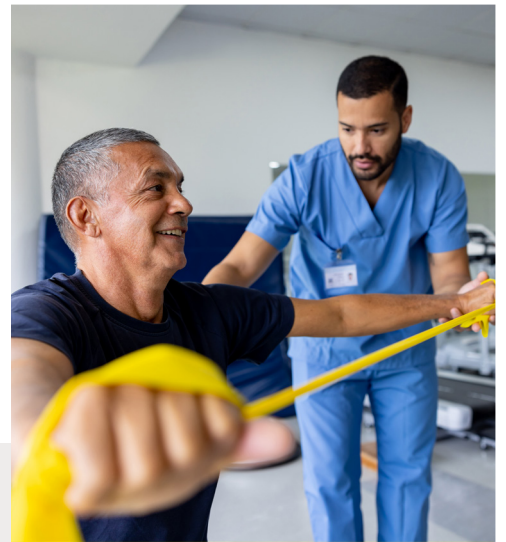
87% of Minnesotans agree that seniors have a right to basic housing, care and support.

Addressing the Workforce Crisis

Our workforce is filled with compassionate and selfless individuals who provide incredible care for our seniors. These skilled professionals deserve better pay for the demanding work they do. Many caregivers are leaving long-term care for higher-paying, less stressful jobs.



In January of 2024, assisted living settings reported that **15%** of caregiver positions remain vacant.





The State's Responsibility to Ensure Access to Care

As care options continue to disappear across Minnesota due to workforce shortages, families are making incredible sacrifices to care for their older loved ones. Asking our seniors or their families to travel an hour or more away to find care is unacceptable. The state must ensure families and communities can remain whole.

In long-term care, wages are directly affected by the state's role in reimbursing providers. State leaders set reimbursement rates for care. The current rates do not provide enough money for caregivers to make a family-sustaining wage.

In addition, outdated data means that senior care settings are receiving payments that do not reflect current costs to provide care. Unless the state increases funding and makes long-overdue updates to the payment system, senior care leaders cannot recruit and retain the caregivers needed to provide Minnesota seniors with the care they need.

To address the workforce crisis, support caregivers and improve access to care for older adults in their home communities, our legislative priorities this year include:



Expanding and accelerating workforce pipelines to aging services careers. [HF3979](#) / [SF4235](#)



Addressing financial payment problems such as the 21-month reimbursement delay for nursing homes and outdated wage data benchmarks for Elderly Waiver rates. [HF3390](#) / [SF4547](#)



Seeking legislative funding for a pay increase for nursing home workers resulting in \$25/hour by 2025. [HF3391](#) / [SF4130](#)



Improving the accountability, quality, safety and training of supplemental agency/temporary staff.

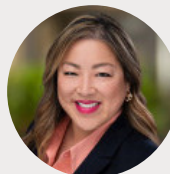


Regulatory simplification, administrative relief for assisted living providers and ensuring that LPNs are able to work to the top of their scope (144G). [HF2080](#) / [SF1969](#)

CONTACT



ANGELA GARIN
Senior Director of Advocacy,
Care Providers of Minnesota
(612) 839-4645
agarin@careproviders.org



ERIN HUPPERT
Vice President of Advocacy
LeadingAge Minnesota
(651) 206-5302
ehuppert@leadingagemn.com