

Transforming
Lives

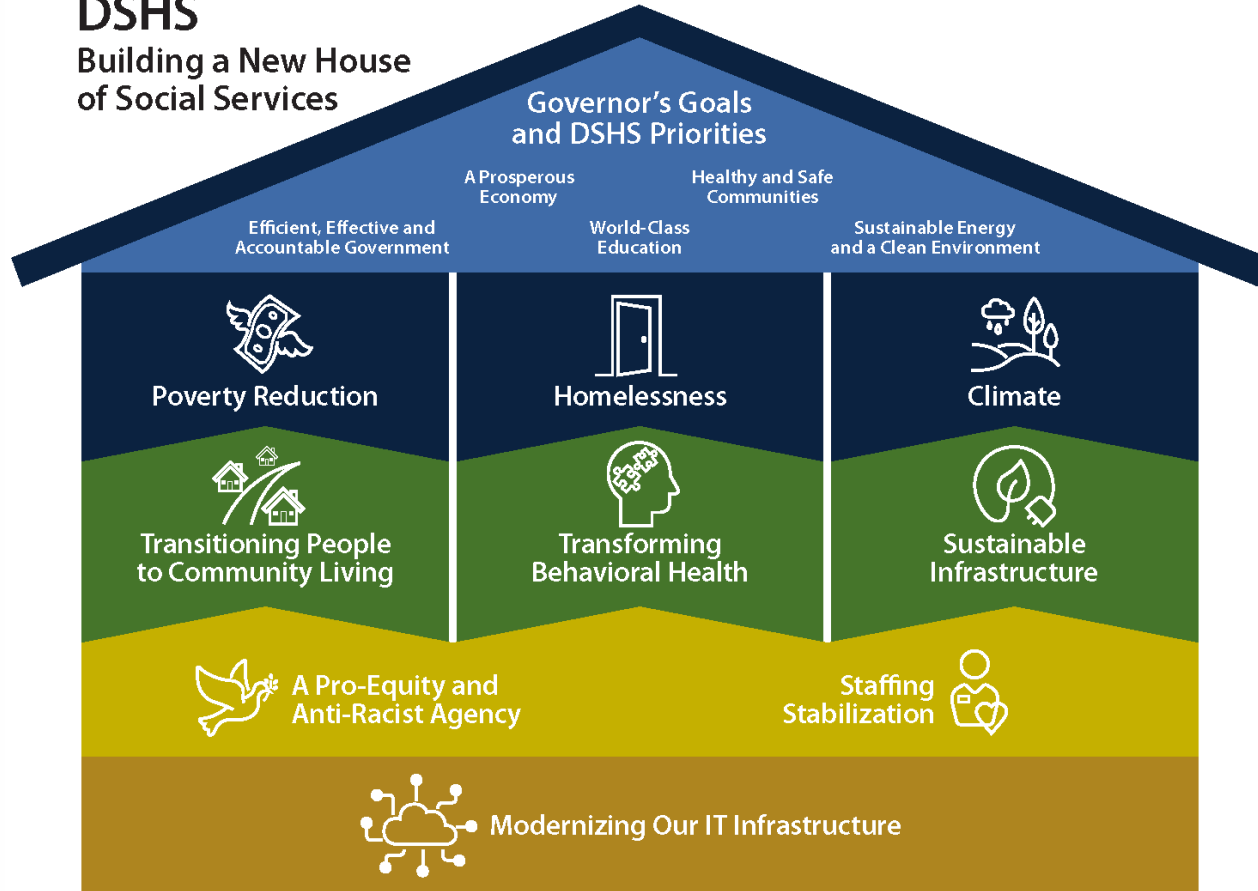
ALTSA Legislative Proposals 2024

**Bea Rector, Assistant Secretary
Dept. of Social and Health Services
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration**



DSHS

Building a New House
of Social Services



ALTSA Mission

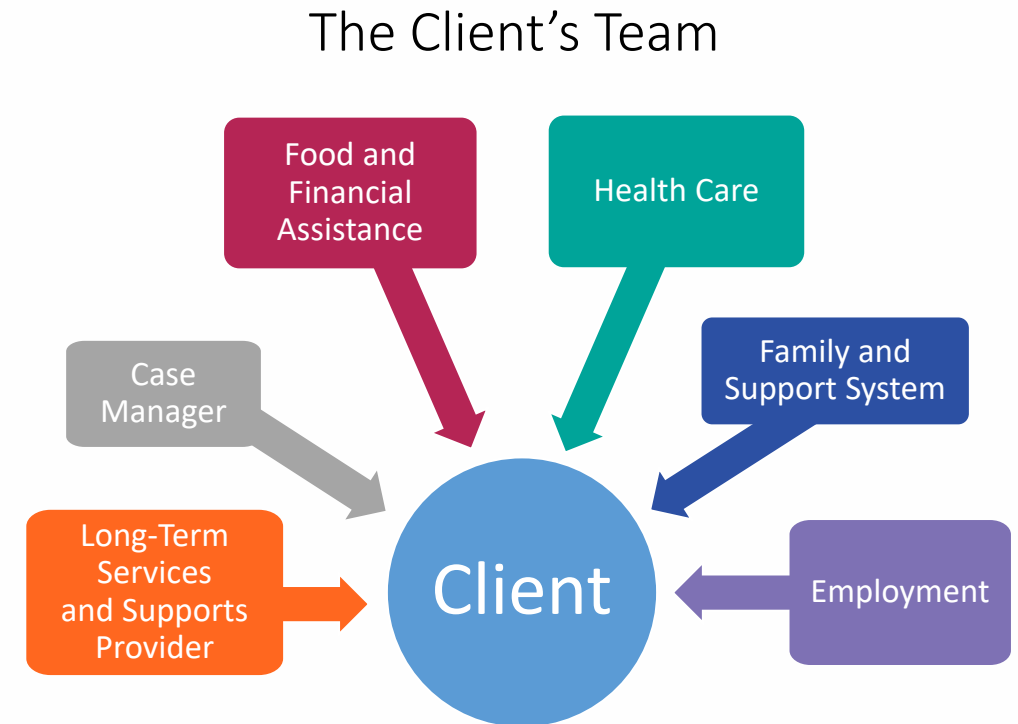
Vision

Adults who are older or people with disabilities living in good health, independence, dignity, and control over decisions that affect their lives.

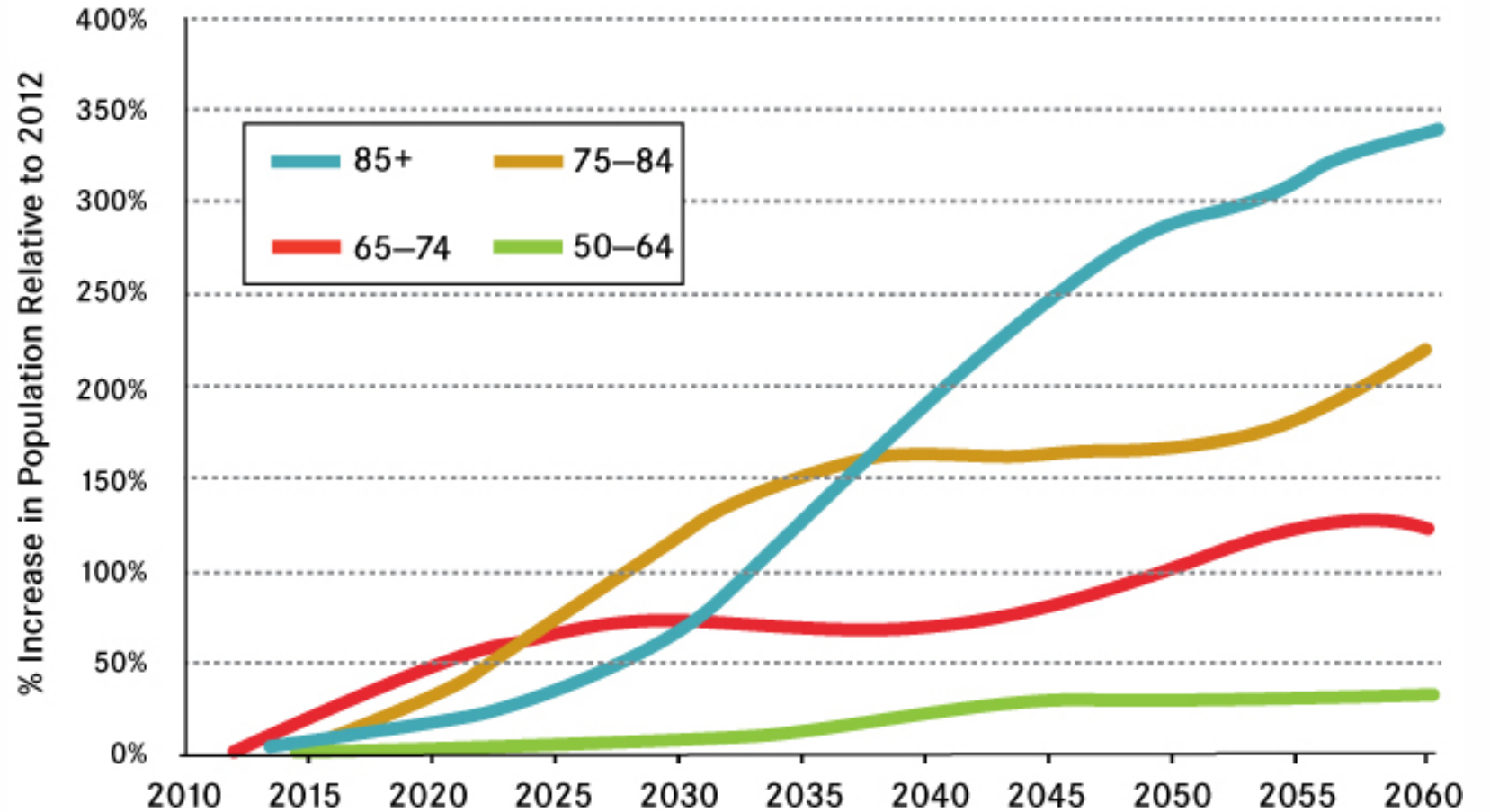
Mission

*To **Transform Lives** by promoting choice, independence and safety through innovative services.*

Washington's Long-Term Services and Supports



**Our
population
is aging
rapidly**





2023 Legislative Investments

Our long-term care workers receive some of the highest wages in the nation.

- Through partnerships with the provider unions, associations, providers and advocacy groups, we've been able to support significant investments in long-term care wages.

2023 legislative session accomplishments:

- Rate increases for Medicaid providers in all settings.
- DSHS directed to adopt an enhanced services payment model for care for patients with complex needs.
- Funding for translation and culturally competent training for long-term care workers.

Implementing 2023 Legislative Workforce Wins

HB 1694, Addressing the Home Care Workforce Shortage

- Lessened barriers to entry
- Expanded the definition of “family member”
- Requests reports on paying spouses and parents of medically complex kids

SB 5278, Implementing Audit Recommendations to Reduce Barriers to Home Care Aide Certification

- Required changes to testing and certification to reduce barriers to entry
- Requests report on further reduction of barriers on testing and certification

SB 5499, Multistate Nurse Compact

- Sets up system to allow nurses from other states to work more easily in Washington state (and vice versa)

HB 1435, Home Care Safety Net Assessment

- Creates a workgroup to investigate implementation of a home care safety net assessment

SB 5582, Reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase supply of nurses in Washington

- Expanded credentialing and educational opportunities and eliminated bottlenecks
- Created HCA to LPN apprenticeship pathway pilot
- Funded direct care jobs marketing campaign

A National Leader in Long-Term Services and Supports

In 2023, Washington state was ranked **second** in the nation in the Long-Term Services and Supports State Scorecard.

5 pillars of AARP's Scorecard Framework

Affordability
and Access

Choice of
Setting and
Provider

Quality and
Safety

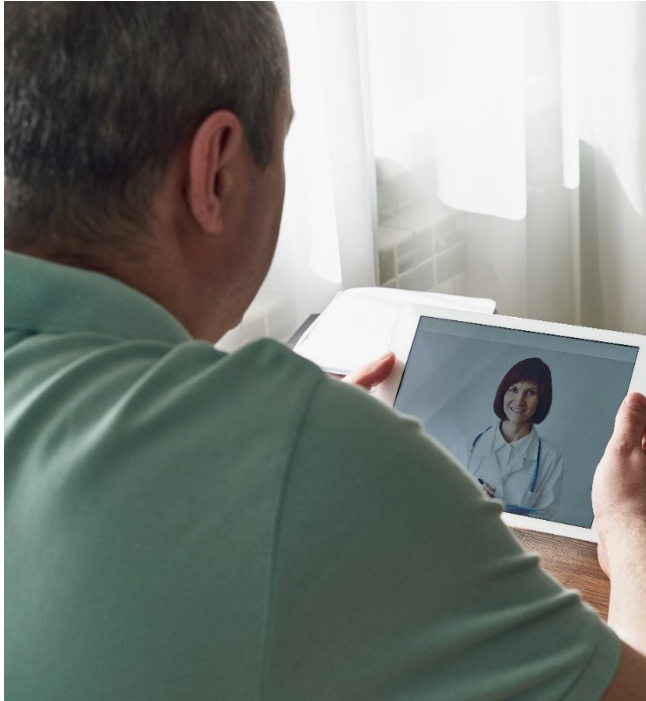
Support for
Family
Caregivers

Community
Integration

2024 Decision Package Requests

2024 Decision Package Requests

Addressing the impacts of the workforce shortage



- **Remote Services:** DSHS-ALTSA is requesting \$968,000 for the creation and implementation of remote support services under the COPES waiver and the expansion of assistive technology under the Community First Choice (CFC) program.
- **Case management:** DSHS-ALTSA is requesting \$1,071,000, which will be matched with federal Medicaid dollars to fund 8.1 FTEs.

GOSH Housing Expansion

- The Governor's Opportunity for Supportive Housing (GOSH) program combines intensive supportive housing services with a housing subsidy for ALTA clients discharging or diverting from the State Hospitals.
- Between 2020 and 2022, DSHS ALTA saw a 67% increase in referrals to the GOSH program.
- **DSHS-ALTA is requesting \$8,559,000 to expand this program by 175 slots.**



Behavioral Health Supports

- **DSHS-ALTSA is requesting \$18,412,000** to support 9 FTEs, specialized training and rate increases to meet the need for newly expanded capacity and planned growth in residential treatment facilities.
- These facilities were developed to accommodate state hospital civil conversations.
- ALTSA assists with over 60% of the transitions out of state hospital settings.
- With increasing demand on the civil conversation program, additional staff and training are needed to assist individuals in community psychiatric settings who are eligible for long-term care to transition.

Vendor Rate Increases: Dementia Care Stability & Adult Day Health

- **AL & Dementia:** DSHS-ALTSA is requesting \$56,987,000 to increase provider rates for assisted living facilities and dementia care clients
- **Adult Day Services:** DSHS-ALTSA is requesting \$1,924,000 to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for Adult Day Care and Adult Day Health – a 30% increase to current rates.



WA Cares Fund

- WA Cares Fund is Washington's first in the nation universal long-term care insurance program, which began collecting premiums in July 2023 and will begin paying benefits in July 2026
- DSHS ALTSA is requesting \$7,507,000 out of the LTSS Trust Account to support ongoing operation and implementation of, and technology solutions for, the WA Cares Fund



2024 Proposed Agency Request Legislation

- ***Expanding the definition of family member for the purposes of individual provider training and certification***
 - A follow up to E2SHB 1694 (2023); ensures that all in-laws are included in the definition of family member for the purposes of IP training & certification
- ***Relating to providing flexibility in calculation of nursing rates for the purposes of implementing new centers for medicare and medicaid services data***
 - Removes now irrelevant statute related to RUGs data; provides the department flexibility to implement new CMS acuity data system (PDPM).
- ***Clarifying Workforce Standards for Individual Providers in Minimum Wage Law***
 - Codifies Department of Labor guidance 79F into Washington state statute; protects the longevity of the family member individual provider program.

Thank you!