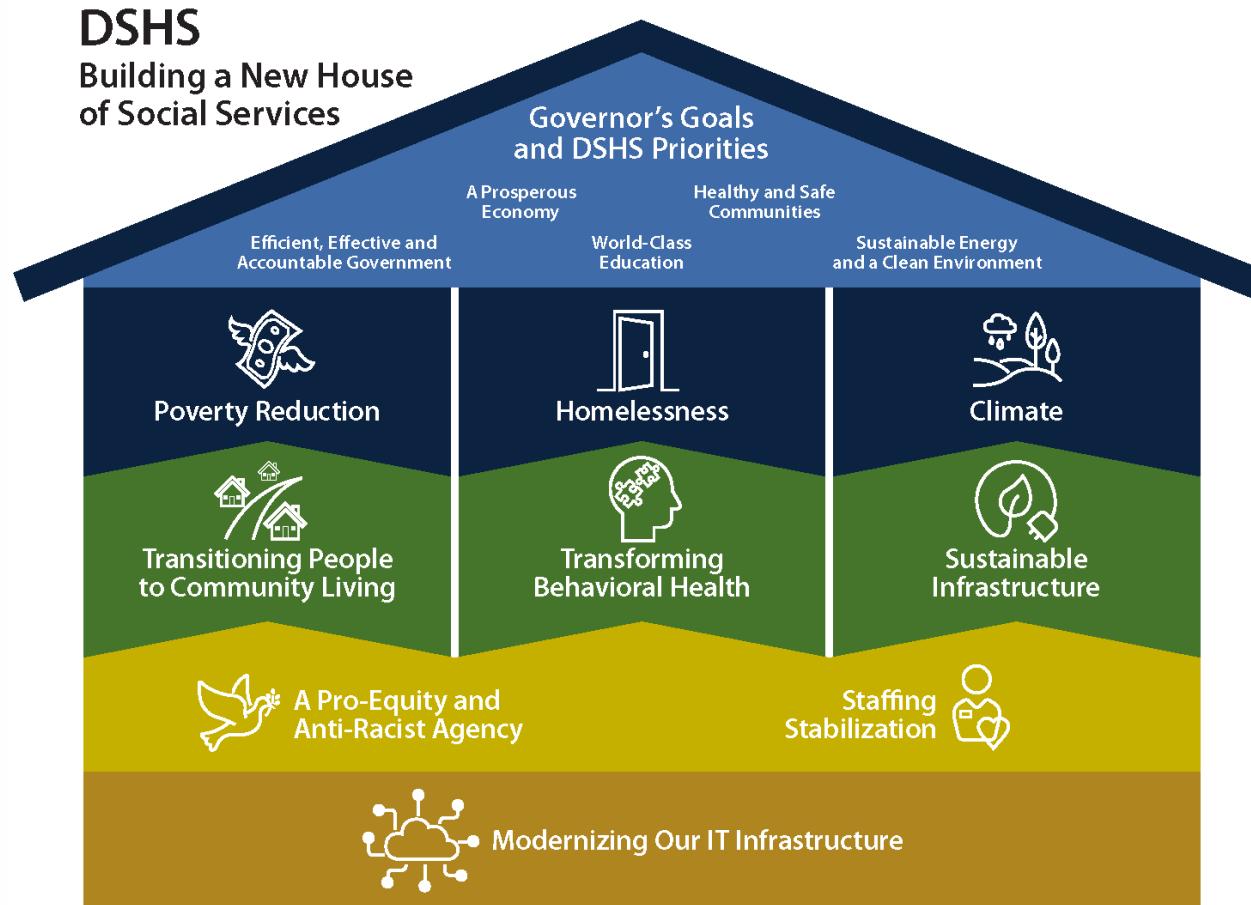


Transforming
Lives

ALTSA Legislative Proposals 2024

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





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

Adult Protective Services

Supports Choice, Independence and Safety
Educate the public, conduct quality investigations, provide advocacy and offer protective services to vulnerable adults.

Home and Community Services

Supports Choice, Independence and Safety
Provide clients with case management and home and community-based services. Develop new, innovative services.

Management Services Division

Supports Divisions
Provides data, information technology, facilities and financial services, etc., so that divisions can do their jobs well.

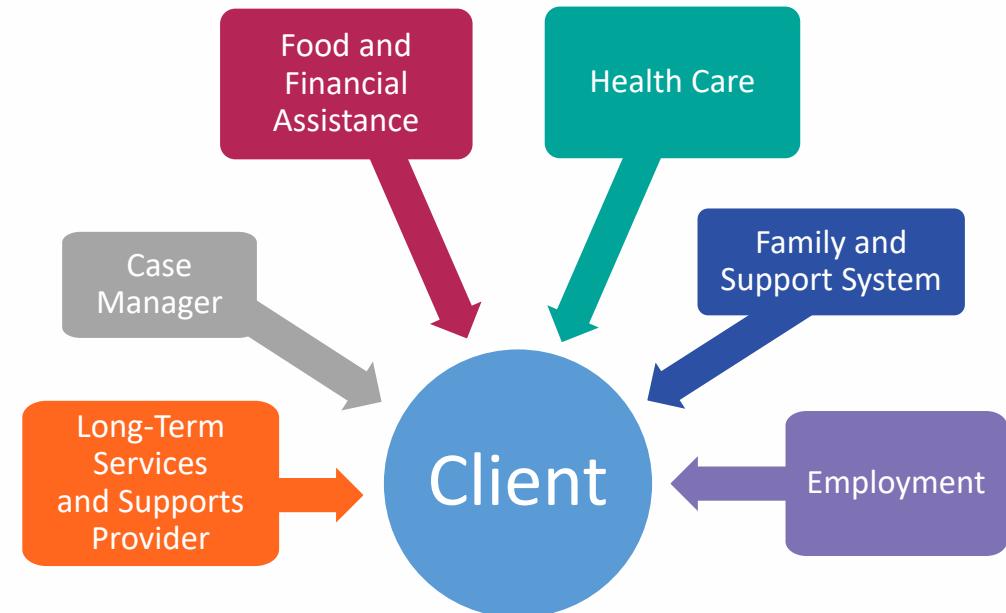
Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Supports Choice and Independence
Provides training and assistive listening technology for individuals and providers.

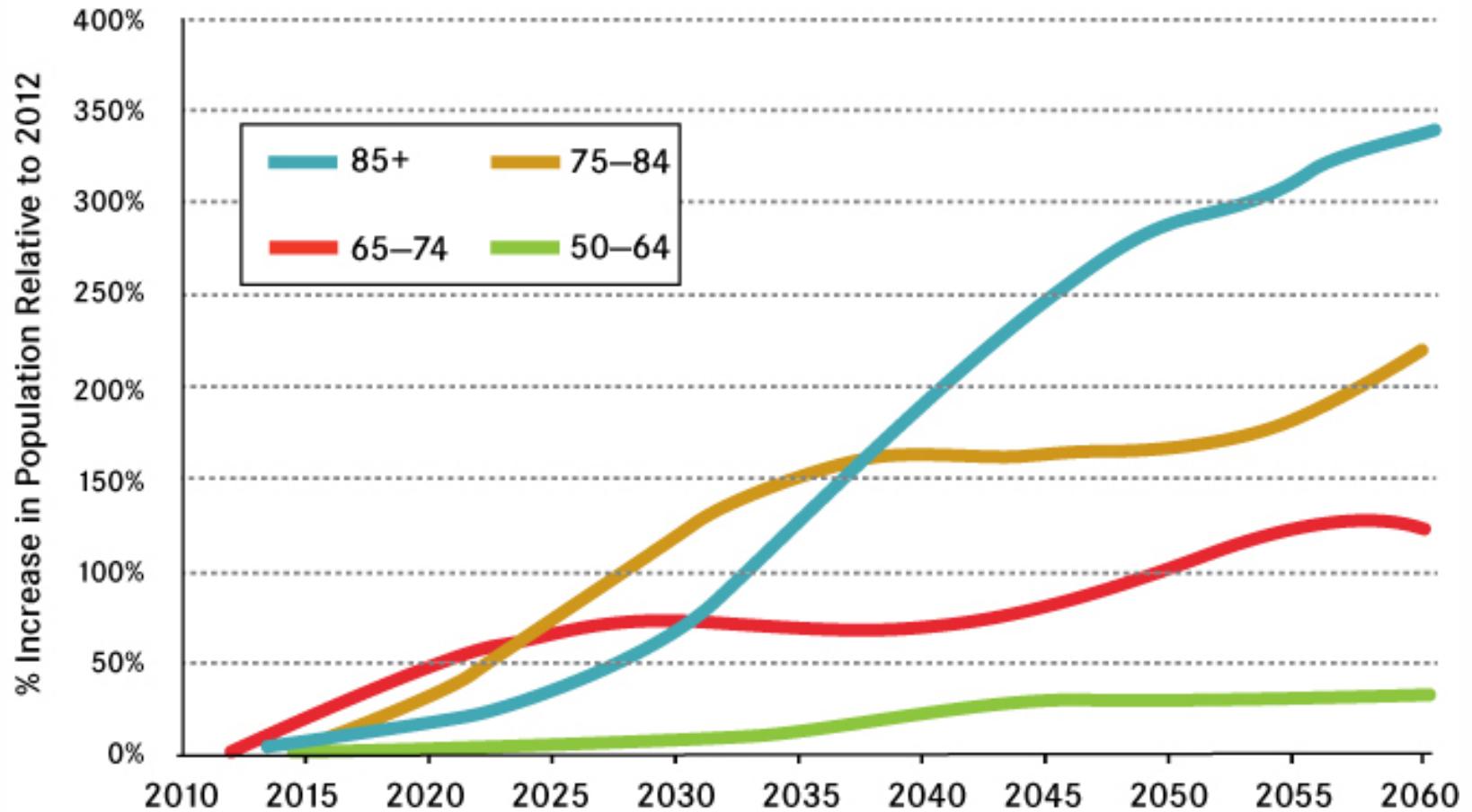
Residential Care Services

Supports Safety and Choice
Makes sure where our clients (and all state residents) live is safe. Helps develop new, safe, quality options for care.

The Client's Team



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 credentialling 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

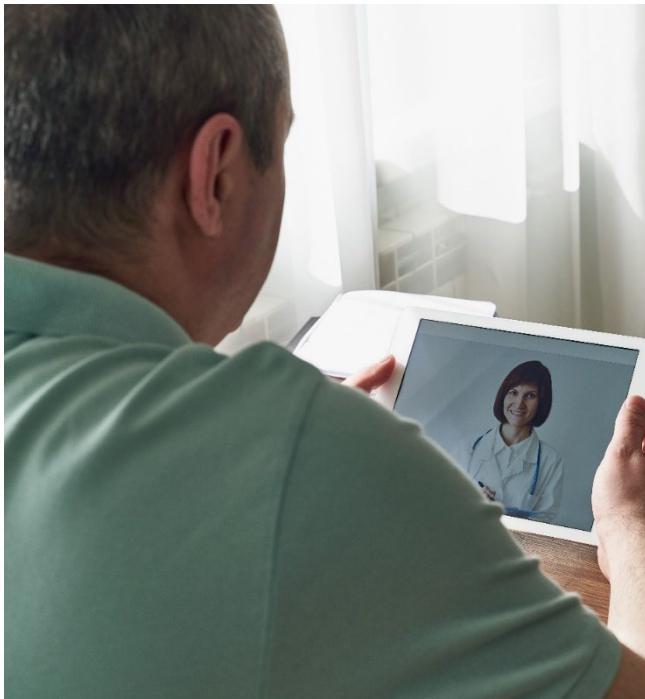
Quality and
Safety

Support for
Family
Caregivers

Community
Integration

2024 Decision Package Requests

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 ALTSA clients discharging or diverting from the State Hospitals.
- Between 2020 and 2022, DSHS ALTSA saw a 67% increase in referrals to the GOSH program.
- **DSHS-ALTSA 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 statue 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!