



2019 Public Policy Priorities

These are our key priorities and are the focus for our efforts. In keeping with our mission, collaboration with stakeholders is crucial to the formulation and success of meaningful public policy.

During 2019, *LeadingAge North Carolina* has three major priorities:

- Work closely with the North Carolina Department of Insurance on issues related to their ongoing responsibility for continuing care retirement communities, particularly as it relates to potential statutory, personnel or administrative changes.
- Ensure that state and local tax policy continues to recognize and provide incentives for the economic impact and community benefit contributions of the nonprofit sector.
- Work to permit nonprofit continuing care retirement communities to provide Medicare-certified home health services to their contracted residents and exempt them from the necessity of obtaining a certificate of need.

In addition, *LeadingAge North Carolina* will work to:

- Inform key stakeholders of the social accountability initiatives that members bring to local communities and the continuing importance of the tax exemptions earned by members.
- Communicate in a substantive and consistent way with the North Carolina Continuing Care Residents Association.
- Work to remove the maximum reimbursement rate for adult day services, putting them on a level playing field with every other provider of Home and Community Care Block Grant services.
- Work to provide *LeadingAge North Carolina* with the ability to nominate one individual for service on the North Carolina Medical Care Commission (similar to slots nominated by the North Carolina Medical Society, North Carolina Hospital Association, North Carolina Nurses Association, and the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association).
- Support initiatives that encourage innovative approaches to the delivery of supports and services for seniors with a particular emphasis on public/private partnerships which encourage personal responsibility and fiscal integrity and an increase in the number of counties with PACE programs (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) and.
- Work at the federal level to support passage of legislation to correct the problem of Medicare beneficiaries being kept in the hospital for extended periods “under observation” without being admitted as inpatients and to revise the current policy on certified nursing assistant training lockout periods.
- Encourage policymakers to explore innovative approaches to the provision of Medicare and Medicaid services to seniors with a particular emphasis on the inclusion of benchmarks relating to quality, a fair reimbursement rate for providers, Medicaid expansion, and the role that public/private partnerships can play in creating a financially sustainable program.
- Advocate for regulations and rules that encourage innovative approaches while protecting consumer interests and empowering members to provide quality, safety, and value, while at the same time working to minimize the financial impact of any proposed regulatory changes.
- Monitor applicable labor laws and work to minimize the financial impact of any proposed regulatory changes.