



HONOR YOUR SENIORS . . . HONOR THE PROMISE

Help Caregivers Focus on Care

In order to ensure accessible and cost-effective health care for Maryland seniors, the State must adopt these key action items ---

1. Improve access to senior care options.
 - Adequately fund services to individuals residing in senior care facilities – budget cuts threaten quality of care.
 - Allow individuals currently receiving services in the community to participate in the Older Adults Waiver.
 - Expand Maryland’s Congregate Housing Services Program.

2. Stabilize the senior care workforce to ensure Maryland can care for the future needs of a growing senior population.
 - Enact programs to recruit and retain additional nursing/geriatric program faculty, including increasing pay.
 - Increase access to education grants for individuals interested in working in senior health care.
 - Allow reciprocity for individuals licensed in other states to work in Maryland (e.g., nursing home administrators).

3. Eliminate unreasonable delays in seniors receiving approval for State assistance – fix the Medicaid eligibility system.
 - Purchase a new eligibility computer system to streamline the process between DHMH, DHR and local agencies.
 - To increase efficiency, require semi-annual training sessions for individuals involved in the eligibility process (State workers and providers).
 - Develop a pro-rating eligibility system to allow an individual whose countable resources slightly exceed the allowable amount in a given month to still qualify for assistance.

4. Reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on senior care providers.
 - Adequately staff State oversight agencies so they can meet their own timeframes for approving documents, sending survey results to providers, issuing licenses, etc.
 - Create a central State repository for information submitted by senior care providers to avoid State agencies requesting duplicative information.
 - Develop a system to allow all information to be submitted and received electronically to eliminate delays caused by paper submissions.