



# Area Agency on Aging 1-B Legislative Platform 2021-2022

## MI Choice Medicaid Waiver Program

The AAA 1-B advocates for increased funding for the MI-Choice Medicaid Waiver Program. Plans, demonstration programs and future pilot programs for the delivery of managed long-term supports and services (LTSS) should build on the success of Area Agencies on Aging, maintaining their role in the MI Choice program.

## Rebalance Michigan Long-Term Care Spending

Michigan spends 43% of Medicaid LTSS funds on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), far below the national average of HCBS spending of 55%. The AAA 1-B supports efforts to rebalance Michigan's long-term care spending to support HCBS.

## Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) In-Home Services

The AAA 1-B supports the Silver Key Coalition positions advocating for increased state resources to address unmet needs for non-Medicaid in-home services and home delivered meals.

## Support Direct Care Workers

The AAA 1-B supports policies that dedicate resources to recruit, train, retain, and provide adequate wages to direct care workers, who are an essential component of providing quality in-home care.

## Support Family Caregivers and Kinship Caregivers

The AAA 1-B supports policies that provide family caregivers and kinship caregivers, such as grandparents raising grandchildren, with financial security and other resources they need to continue providing care to their loved ones.

## COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on Michigan's older adults, with 89% of deaths occurring in adults over age 60.

Michigan's Aging Network has provided essential care during the pandemic. The AAA 1-B supports policies that mitigate the harm caused by COVID-19 by providing access to supportive services to older adults and mitigating the threat of COVID-19 including:

- Provide older adults with priority access to COVID-19 vaccinations, including homebound individuals
- Ensure safety of seniors in congregate living settings, such as nursing homes
- Support essential direct care workers by continuing the \$2/hour wage pass through
- Ensure adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available to all service providers
- Provide reopening assistance to aging network providers

### Older Americans Act (OAA)

The OAA is the seminal legislation guiding our nation’s aging policy and aging services network. The AAA 1-B supports efforts to strengthen the OAA programs, ensuring local flexibility to best meet the needs of older Americans.

### Preserve Medicare and Social Security

The AAA 1-B supports policies that preserve and strengthen Medicare and Social Security, providing financial security and health to older adults.

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The AAA 1-B emphasizes outreach and service to traditionally underserved low-income minority communities including racial/ethnic minority, LGBT, socially isolated, and immigrant/refugee populations.

### Elder Abuse Prevention

The AAA 1-B advocates for policies that prevent physical, psychological and financial abuse of vulnerable older adults and adults with disabilities.

### Housing Affordability and Accessibility

The AAA 1-B supports the development and preservation of affordable, accessible housing so older adults and people with disabilities can continue to live in their communities as they age.

### Transportation

The AAA 1-B supports policies that provide adequate and sustainable funding for public transportation and mobility management services.

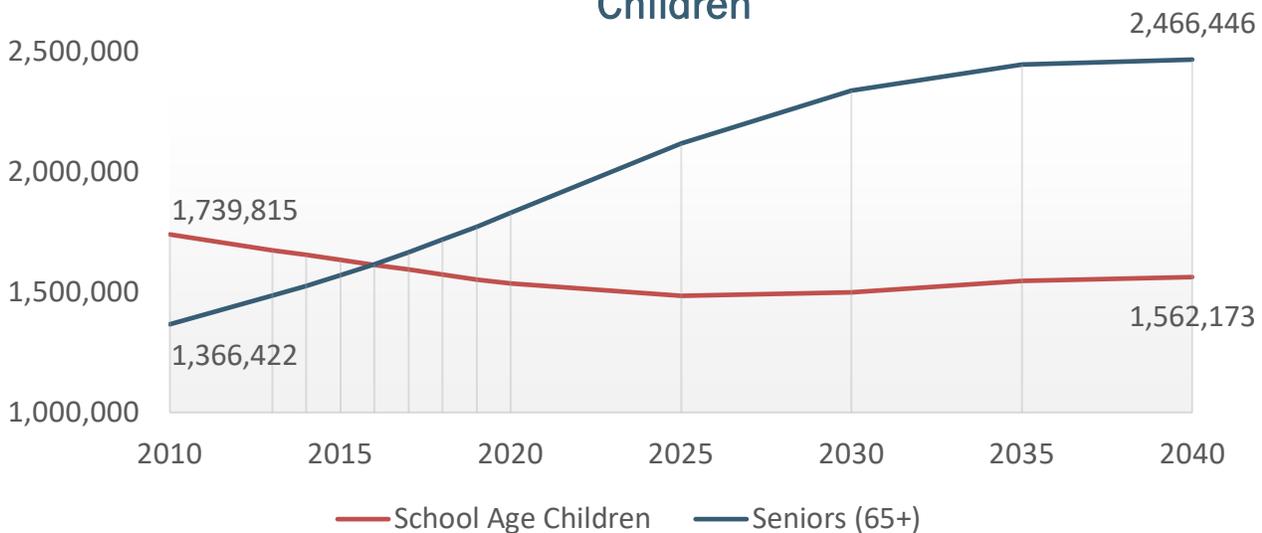
### Reduce Healthcare Costs

The AAA 1-B supports policies that help older adults mitigate the impact of rising healthcare costs, including efforts to control the cost of prescription drugs, expand access to telehealth, and improve transparency of healthcare costs.

### Broadband Access

The internet connects older adults to information, social opportunities, and telehealth. The AAA 1-B supports increasing broadband access to ensure older adults have access to a reliable internet connection at home.

## MI Older Adults will Continue to Outnumber School Age Children



The Area Agency on Aging 1-B is a nonprofit agency serving and advocating on behalf of more than 780,000 older adults and adults with disabilities residing in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Washtenaw Counties. The agency helps these individuals and their family caregivers maintain their health and independence by administering home and community based services.

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