

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**

**WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING**

**2015 Legislative Priorities**

*The aging demographic is rapidly growing and modest investment today can preserve programs that have immense value. For those receiving care, the family members providing services to those in need, and for Washington’s economy, our system of focusing on caring for older adults in their home makes this State a model of how to best treat older adults while conserving precious State resources.*

*Nothing will better serve the needs of our rapidly growing Senior population than investing in the fundamental services provided to those most in need – the Senior Citizen’s Services Act needs to be expanded, and we need to plan for the future of our state – a future where older people live more productive lives with a modest amount of help.*

* **Expand** Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA) which best enables elders to stay in their homes and provides flexibility to target funding based on local needs
* **Expand** Family Caregiver Support Program and Options Counseling through Community Living Connections.

* **Ensure** Community First Choice Option (CFCO) savings are reinvested in Community Based Programs
* **Restore** in-home care funded hours targeted to individuals at risk for out-of-home placement
* **Study** public and private long-term care financing options
* **Ensure** that the long-term support system is strong enough to support and protect vulnerable adults
* **Support** development of a comprehensive Transportation Package and support transit options for those who don’t have large urban transportation systems nearby
* **Continue** the work of the JLEC*.* 
  + Formulate a plan to extend the work of the JLEC either as a standing committee in each chamber, or as an ad hoc committee of the Legislature.