

Washington State Council on Aging

A unified voice across Washington State for
senior citizens.

Who are we?

- We are a unique advocacy group for senior issues.
- Members are 55+ years of age, experienced in aging issues and are appointed by the Governor, Area Agency on Aging Advisory Councils, or cities and counties.

Council Structure:

Four Standing Committees:

- Executive Committee
- Public Awareness & Education State
- Public Awareness & Education National
- Legislative

What we do:

- Charged with advising the Governor, the Department of Social & Health Services Secretary, and the Assistant Secretary of Aging & Long Term Support Administration on matters affecting all seniors.
- We are a respected advisory group with statewide perspective to provide for self-advocacy by older citizens.
- We speak as one voice, creating awareness of the special needs and potentialities of older persons.

Mission

We speak in one voice to advise the Governor and associated state agencies on policies, programs, services and opportunities to support older persons.

Vision:

That all older adults will be able to remain in their home or a community based setting for as long as is prudent & continue to be engaged with and contribute to their communities, & that those who have the most need will have access to services that provide choice, independence & dignity.

The importance:

- The “silver tsunami is here: Over next two decades, senior population will grow 20%.
- This “age wave” is a major demographic shift which will create many challenges in the areas of housing, transportation, health care & healthy aging, long term services, income, and community opportunities for older adults, to name a few.

2016 Action Plan:

2016 Action Plan

- Be proactive to fulfill our statutory duties.

Continue focus areas as follows:

- Guardianship/WINGS
- Senior Housing and Homelessness
- Elder Justice
- Dementia Action Collaborative

- Special areas of focus 2014-2016

(areas the Council identifies need to increase understanding and potentially formulate policy positions.)

- Comprehensive Transportation Plan- We believe Washington state needs to have an overall comprehensive transportation plan that addresses the variety of needs of the aging population who may depend on others to get around.
- Guardianship- The Council Research Committee is currently in process of first steps of exploring this issue and developing educational materials for Council members.

Website for more information:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/altsa/home-and-community-services/washington-state-council-aging-scoa>