



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING
PO Box 45600 · Olympia, WA 98504-5600

Washington State Council on Aging-2011 Legislative Priorities

Members of the State Council on Aging (SCOA) recognize the continuing severity of fiscal constraints facing the Governor and Legislators as they work on balancing the 2011 Supplemental Budget and developing the coming biennium budget. As we advocate for seniors, the State Council on Aging wants to minimize the further erosion of services and express the following key principles and values:

- ***We support ending special tax exemptions or finding similar strategies to increase revenue; NOT an ‘all-cuts’ budget approach.***
- ***Protect the most vulnerable senior citizens. Prioritize funding to protect those receiving services.***
By "vulnerable", we mean people who are low income, low income minorities, and rural elderly Washingtonians. Focus on those who are unable to care for themselves or do not have the family support to assist them in carrying out essential daily activities.
- ***Prioritize funding that helps senior citizens remain in their home or a community-based setting for as long as possible.***
 - ***No more cuts to the State Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA).*** *SCSA has already been cut enough. SCSA has proven cost effectiveness and is integral to helping the Area Agencies on Aging deliver a number of local community programs and services, e.g. congregate and home-delivered meals, information and assistance for seniors, caregiver respite, and transportation.*
 - ***Support Family Caregiver programs.*** *Protect the gains made in support to family caregivers-this helps keep people in their own homes and out of costly institutional care*
- ***Protect Washington’s investment in home and community services and maintain the current long term care infrastructure.*** *We respect that Washington has been a national leader by providing people the choice to receive cost effective services in their own homes or community settings relying less on institutional facilities. Investing in home and community-based care continues to be more cost- effective, in economic and human terms, than paying for expensive Medicaid nursing home care, other than as a last resort.*

The **Washington State Council on Aging** (SCOA) is a unified voice across Washington for senior citizens. SCOA is a unique advocacy group in the arena of senior issues. Why?

- Members are appointed by the Governor and are charged with advising the Governor, the DSHS Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of ADSA. (RCW 43.20A.695)
- This connection brings the State Council on Aging inside perspective on the matters of the state.
- We have a statewide perspective and speak as one voice.
- Members are made up of representatives from Area Agencies on Aging, the legislature, and the long-term care field.
- The makeup of the membership has provided the Council with a built-in communications and outreach platform that reaches all corners of the state.