

## What Advocates Can Do

- ◆ Understand the issues facing older adults and adults with disabilities
- ◆ Study Senators' and Representatives' stand on related issues
- ◆ Call, e-mail or request a personal meeting with your legislators

## What Legislators Can Do

- ◆ Sponsor and support legislation to support this Platform
- ◆ Attend Older Michiganians Day and meet with constituents who travel for the rally
- ◆ Commit to government transparency and open dialogue in the legislative process

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### Older Michiganian's Day Steering Committee:

AARP Michigan, Adult Well-Being Services, Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan, Michigan Association of Nutrition Aging Service Providers, Michigan Association of Senior Centers, Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging, Michigan Senior Advocates Council, Senior Volunteers Program of Michigan.

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### Older Michiganians Day Sponsors:

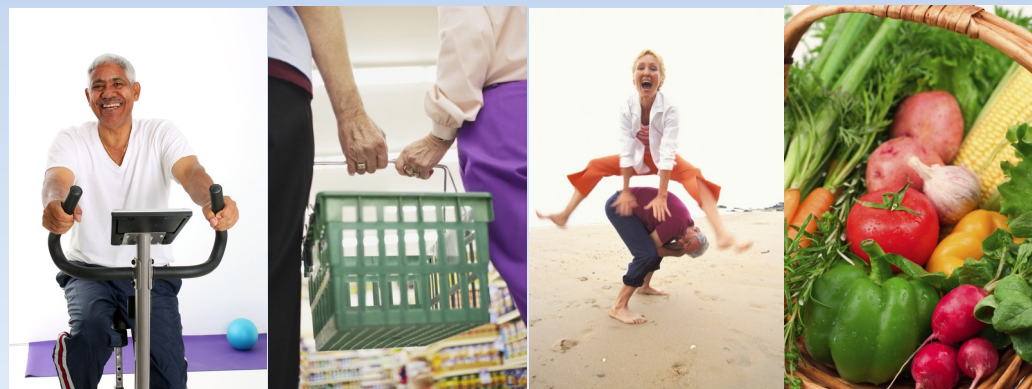


**For more information please visit:  
[www.oldermichiganiansday.com](http://www.oldermichiganiansday.com)**



## OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

# HEALTHY AGING HEALTHY MICHIGAN



## PLATFORM

**For Legislative Action 2013-2014**

*The number of Michigan seniors age 60+ is rising by 135 residents per day! A healthy senior population is essential for lowering health care costs and improving quality of life.*

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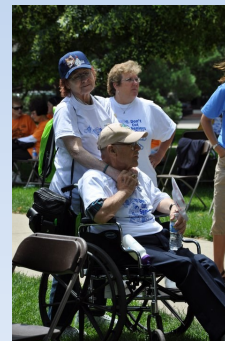
**Access to a full range of high quality long term supports and services options meets the needs of Michigan's growing older adult population and adults with disabilities**

**We urge Legislators and the Governor to invest in results-oriented solutions that will *Save Medicaid Dollars.***

- ◆ Prevent or delay the use of costly institutional care by funding Older Michigianians Act programs: home-delivered meals, in-home care, care management, caregiver respite, and senior volunteers - *state funding has decreased 20% over the past four years while Michigan's senior population has grown more than 7%.*
- ◆ Expand funding for the *MI Choice* home-based Medicaid nursing home alternative to help more vulnerable older adults and younger adults with disabilities stay in their own homes.
- ◆ Ensure that Michigan's Integrated Care plan allows individuals to keep their current care managers and service providers and utilizes the expertise of Area Agencies on Aging.
- ◆ Ensure that Michigan's Integrated Care plan assures individual choice, a full range of benefits, and person centered planning.
- ◆ Increase state funding for senior programs that have been cut by \$2.7 million dollars due to federal sequestration.

## **Provide Resources to Assure Healthy Seniors and a Healthy Michigan**

- ◆ Fund and enhance promotion of evidence-based wellness programs to slow the rise in health care costs and prevent the debilitating consequences of chronic conditions.
- ◆ Support amending the Personal Property Tax bills to protect senior millage funding. Local senior millages fund community programs that keep seniors in their homes.
- ◆ *Expand Medicaid to cover the 470,000 uninsured citizens of Michigan to ensure lower insurance premiums and costs for ALL consumers.* Medicaid expansion is critical in the reduction of healthcare costs. Without expansion, thousands of Michigianians, including caregivers and seniors under the age of 65, will be forced to continue accessing care through emergency rooms and other expensive care settings.



**An estimated 90,000 older and vulnerable adults are victims of elder abuse each year in Michigan.**

**Elder abuse reports to Adult Protective Services have increased 30% in the last five years.**

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## **Protect the Rights of Seniors for Community Health and Safety**

- ◆ Reintroduce and pass Senate Bills 456, 460, 463, 604, 605, 706 and 777 to prevent the abuse and financial exploitation of older adults and persons with disabilities.
- ◆ Expand affordable and accessible housing and restore the cuts made in the Home Heating Tax Credit.