



Policy Principles

LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire is an association representing more than 50 not-for-profit, mission-driven senior living communities and care providers in Maine and New Hampshire. Our member organizations include nursing homes, assisted living facilities, federally-assisted and market-rate housing units, home- and community-based services, and Life Plan Communities (continuing care retirement communities).

Our Mission: Inspiring our members to pursue innovation and the best life for older adults.

Our Vision: LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire is a recognized, transformational leader in shaping society's vision of aging.

Because our members serve and work within multiple areas of long-term care services, perspectives may at times vary. Association policies and public policy positions, particularly those involving controversial issues, will be developed through a thoughtful, open and deliberative process that allows input from all members. Our public policy positions and initiatives are designed to assist our members in achieving their central goal of providing high quality care and services in a cost-effective manner.

For all issues, including those for which we currently hold no position, we will be guided by the following principles:

1. Fair Treatment

- a) Older adults have the right to be **free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation**.
- b) Older adults have a right to be treated with **dignity** and **respect** without regard to race, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation or source of payment.
- c) Older adults should have **meaningful choices** of services and programs offered in ways which promote **autonomy** and **engagement**—balanced with each provider's obligation to protect seniors who have diminished capacity for total self-care.

2. Access to High-Quality Long-Term Services and Supports

- a) Older adults deserve access to the **services they need, where they need them, in the place they call home**.

- b) The long-term care financing system in Maine and New Hampshire should make **quality, affordable long-term services and supports** readily available to older adults. We believe that government plays an important role in this system and should provide sufficient resources so that providers may maintain high standards and quality of care.
- c) Older adults deserve access to **education and information** in order to make informed decisions about their care.

3. Quality

- a) Older adults should have confidence that the aging services they choose for themselves and their loved ones will **meet or exceed their needs and expectations**.
- b) Recognizing that quality has different dimensions and must be considered from a variety of perspectives, LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire members are committed to **continuous quality improvement**.

4. Skilled Workforce

- a) Maine and New Hampshire both face a growing eldercare workforce shortage. Policies and programs are needed to address **workforce retention, recruitment, training and management, policy development and fostering of cultural competencies**.

5. The Right Policy for the Right Reasons

- a) Older adults have a right to **protection** through laws, regulations, policies and practices which safeguard their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Likewise, government policies and enforcement of regulations **should not inhibit providers** of care and services to the aging from providing cost-effective, high quality care.
- b) Nonprofit organizations have unique responsibilities as guardians of values, crucibles of innovation, cultivators of volunteerism and stewards of the public interest. LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire members have a responsibility to educate the public, policy makers, community leaders, donors and other stakeholders about the **philosophy and value of tax exemption, how it benefits society and why it must be preserved**.