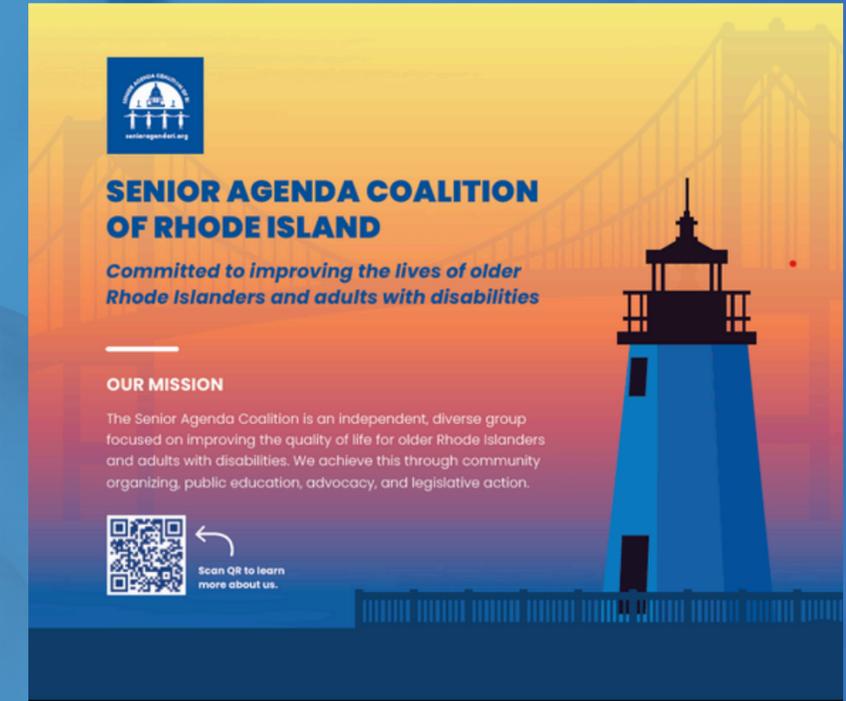


VOICES FOR BETTER HEALTH



A Collaboration of the following Partners Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

- RI Organizing Project.
- Economic Progress Institute

ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Actions: Worked to improve economic security of persons on Medicare by advocating for increasing income eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (aka Medicare Premium Payment program)

Result: State budget article included language seeking CMS approval (Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services) to increase Qualified Individual level to 185% of the federal poverty level. This will need additional legislation to implement.

Actions: Supported increasing home and human services provider reimbursement under the Medicaid program to assist with workforce recruitment and retention and avoid waiting list for services especially for home care. This would also help in “rebalancing” long term care.

Result: The state fiscal year 2025 budget included the addition of \$160Million to fully fund rate increases based on consultant study and recommendations of the Office of Health Insurance Commission. Increases take effect in October, 2024.

Reduced healthcare costs

ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Actions: Advocated to increase support for community programs for older adults, i.e. “senior centers” and other local programs.

Result: State fiscal year 2025 budget increased funding for local senior programs by \$200,000 to level of \$1.4Million.

Actions: Supported Legislation to assist working caregivers by expanding the state Temporary Caregiver Insurance law

Results: Temporary Caregiver Insurance law increased from 6 to 8 weeks over two-year period starting in January 2025 and dependency allowance increased from \$10 to \$20.

Actions: Worked to Improve Transportations Access for older adults and persons with disabilities through participation in SAVE RIPTA campaign to stop elimination of some bus routes and increase state funding. Supported pilot accessible van on-demand ride program for southern RI.

Results:

- o \$15M added to state fiscal year 2025 budget for RIPTA bus services.
- o Proposed bus elimination of routes forestalled
- o RIPTA started Micro pilot On-demand program using wheelchair accessible vans in August for southern RI communities of Narragansett, South Kingstown and Kingston

ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Actions: Continued advocacy to address critical housing needs through funding and policies to increase access to affordable and accessible housing by supporting referendum item for \$120Million Housing bond and several pieces of housing-related legislation (streamlining development of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), extending notification for rent increases to tenants to 60 days and 120 days for persons age 62+ and including accessibility features in new housing.

Results:

- o \$120Million Housing Bond put on November ballot
- o Accessory Dwelling Unit simplification legislation passed
- o Tenant notification for rent increases extended (120 days for persons age 60+)

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