



WACCRA PRESS KIT

WASHINGTON
CONTINUING CARE
RESIDENTS
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WACCRA OVERVIEW



1

Date Launched

WACCRA was established in 2014 as a 501(c)4 to advocate for seniors in independent living in Washington Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs).

2

What a CCRC is

Sometimes referred to as Life Plan Communities, they provide seniors with pre-funded access to assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing health care services through the end of their lives. Contracts typically require large up front entrance fees that often represent the majority of residents' savings.

3

WACCRA Membership

WACCRA represents 1,250+ of the 8,000+ residents residing in Washington's 23 CCRCs, the majority of which can be found in Western Washington

WHO WE ARE

The Washington Continuing Care Residents Association (WACCRA) represents the interests of Washington seniors residing in Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs) that provide a continuum of care from independent living through nursing care - "all under one roof". Independent living residents of CCRCs make substantial entrance fee deposits to join this type of retirement community but have few Washington state protections compared to other communal living arrangements in Washington and when compared to other states' regulations of CCRCs. WACCRA's goal is to improve consumer protections for seniors and ensure a robust CCRC industry in Washington.

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2016 - WACCRA's sponsored initial legislation of CCRCs in Washington passes.

2019 - WACCRA's sponsored bill to expand regulation failed in the Senate.

2022 – WACCRA secured funding in the State budget to fund the Office of the Insurance Commissioner study into Washington's CCRC consumer protections in comparison to other states. Report finds that Washington regulations do not provide adequate financial oversight or consumer protections.

2023 – WACCRA secured funding in the budget for DSHS/OIC/AGO to provide the legislature with recommendations for improvement in financial oversight and consumer protection in conjunction with stakeholders.

2024 – February DSHS/OIC/AGO holds “listening sessions” with CCRC stakeholders including WACCRA. Final report sent to the legislature in December 2024 with regulatory recommendations to enhance resident protections.

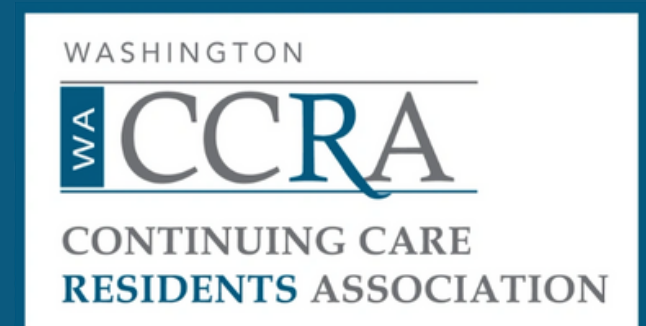
WHY IT MATTERS

Washington seniors have made the decision to live in a CCRC to ensure they don't become a burden to their families and communities, often investing a large portion of their financial assets to do so. Yet news outlets across the nation have reported on CCRCs facing significant financial crisis impacting seniors in those communities. **Now a similar situation has come to light at The Kenney in West Seattle which has entered receivership and has \$13M of overdue bills and payments** . Nothing in Washington's regulations today provide CCRC residents, like those at The Kenney, with consumer protections from or financial transparency about their CCRC organization.

WACCRA will be pursuing legislation in the 2025 Legislative Session to ensure seniors receive the protections they deserve.

WHAT WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR

- CCRC Licensure by the State versus current registration.
- Residents' Rights and Ombuds Support.
- Meaningful Enforcement of Regulations.
- Periodic Financial Reviews by the State.
- Actuarial Reviews by the State.
- Board of Directors Representation.
- State Oversight of and Requirements for Use of a CCRC's funds.
- Protection of Residents' Contracts and Entrance Fees in Bankruptcy.
- Timely Repayment of Entrance Fees.
- Guarantee of Promised Lifetime Care.



DSHS REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES

The report, *Addressing a Regulatory Oversight plan for Continuing Care Retirement Communities in Washington State*, outlines seven key recommendations to improve consumer protections for CCRC residents. These recommendations include strengthening financial transparency, creating an ombuds program, enhancing operation accountability, and clarifying residents' access to services. The report emphasizes shifting Washington's regulatory approach from reactive to proactive, with DSHS as the lead oversight agency.

For the full report, visit: [DSHS CCRC Oversight plan](#)

WACCRA believes the report's recommendations are a starting point but insufficient to fully protect residents.

WACCRA advocates for stronger measures, including state licensure of CCRCs, resident-elected board representation, and guarantees of lifetime care as part of a proactive regulatory framework.



RECENT COVERAGE ON THIS ISSUE

Illinois CCRC Bankruptcy

Largest Illinois CCRC in bankruptcy
owing \$135M, November 2023.

Friendship Village of Schaumburg

Retirees' Life Savings Can Vanish

Wall Street Journal article

When CCRCs go bankrupt,
residents or their heirs can lose
their refundable entrance fees,
June 2024.

Financials Difficult to Interpret

Wall Street Journal - Due diligence
can be challenging due to
communities' complex business
models. June 2024.

Washington State Growth in Senior Population

Washington State Office of
Financial Management Forecast of
Population, November 2023

DSHS CCRC Oversight plan

Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner Report on CCRCs

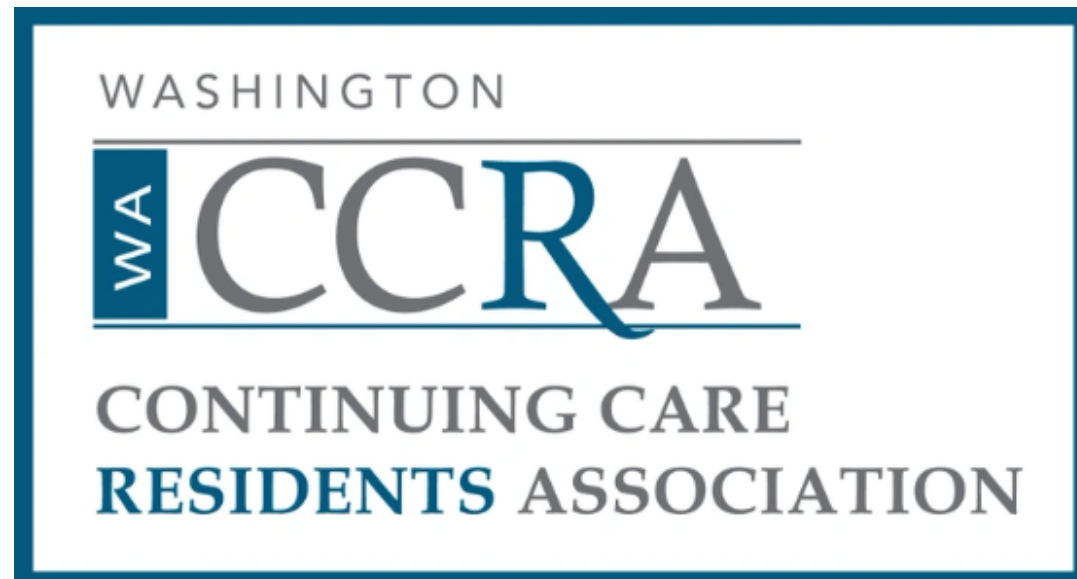
OIC report to the Legislature on financial
regulations and disclosure requirements
for CCRCs in Washington, 2022.
Washington exhibits lower regulatory
oversight and consumer protections.

West Seattle CCRC in Receivership

West Seattle CCRC is placed on
receivership on July 25, 2024. West
Seattle icon has served the
community for over 100 years, but
faces over \$13 million in debt.

RESOURCES (ORGANIZATIONS)

- [WACCRA website](#)
- Washington State Registered CCRCs & phone numbers:
[CCRC Registry Lookup](#)
- [National Continuing Care Residents Association](#)
- Washington State Department of Social & Health Services
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration Division: Amy Abbott
- LeadingAge Washington ([CCRC management representative](#))
- Revised Code of Washington [RCW 18.390: CCRCs](#)



THANK YOU

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