

ASSISTED LIVING: Solution to Our Long-Term Care Challenges

Assisted living is the most cost-effective long-term care setting.

Compared to other long-term care providers, assisted living offers lower costs, improved quality of life, better health outcomes, and produces savings to both Medicaid and Medicare.

The resident-centered coordinated care model promotes social and preventative care, keeps seniors healthier, more active and engaged, lowers levels of hospitalization, and reduces frailty levels. Assisted living communities provide 24-hour-care—assisting residents with a multitude of Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), such as bathing dressing, eating, toileting, and mobility. Nine out of ten assisted living residents report high satisfaction with their care and communities. Allowing senior more choice in long-term care and ensuring access to assisted living care will provide significant savings to both seniors and taxpayer-funded public programs.

The Challenge: Our nation is rapidly aging and is unprepared to meet rising care needs.



The U.S. population aged 65 and older will grow from **55 million in 2020 to 80+ million by 2040.**



More than two-thirds of people will need some form of long-term care in their lifetime, and **two-in-five will need care for two or more years.**



Medicare and Medicaid generally do not cover long-term care costs, **which may exceed \$100,000 per year.**



There are not nearly enough caregivers to meet the growing needs of our seniors, **more than 20 million workers are needed by 2040.**



There is a projected shortage of **881,000 assisted living apartments** by 2030, with \$1 trillion in development needed by 2050.

The Solution: Increase access/affordability and address workforce needs.

- ✓ **Co-sponsor the Caring for Seniors Act (led by Reps. Fitzpatrick and Trahan)**
Bipartisan legislation to increase access/affordability through: (1) cost-reduction program to allow seniors to choose assisted living, (2) addresses workforce shortages by retargeting existing HHS and DOL workforce training programs.
- ✓ **Co-sponsor Legislation to Promote Senior Socialization**
 1. H.R. 1812, the Care Across Generations Act (led by Reps. Strickland and Steil), bipartisan legislation to provide grants to long-term care communities to establish an on-site childcare center for purposes of intergenerational activities, or to partner with an existing nearby childcare center.
 2. S. 473, the Social Engagement and Network Initiatives for Older Relief (SENIOR) Act (led by Sens. Rick Scott and Tina Smith) to help more seniors stay connected.
- ✓ **Support Veterans' Care Choices**
Encourage the VA Secretary to use existing authority to allow more veterans to choose assisted living for their care needs, expanding on the bipartisan legislation (Elizabeth Dole Act) signed into law in 2025.
- ✓ **Co-sponsor Tax Reforms to Increase Affordability of Care and Support for Workforce**
 1. Reintroduce the Credit for Caring Act to provide a tax credit for the cost of caregiving;
 2. Support H.R. 1177 & S. 492, the Improve and Enhance the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act to provide a tax credit to hire more senior caregivers; and
 3. Support policies to prevent tax penalties if 529 Accounts are used for the cost of long-term care.
- ✓ **Join the House 21st Century Long-Term Care Caucus**
Bipartisan effort to identify and address long-term care issues and implement solutions to best serve older Americans and all who receive services.

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What is Assisted Living?

Assisted living is a residential long-term care setting for older adults who need assistance with activities of daily living. They are seniors' homes—not institutional facilities.

Care involves managing multiple chronic health issues, supporting physical and mental well-being, and socialization. By offering nutritious restaurant-style dining options, a diverse calendar of social and educational activities, and a committed focus on resident engagement, assisted living plays a critical role in supporting seniors' independence, happiness, and overall health. Assisted living is licensed and regulated in all 50 states and D.C.



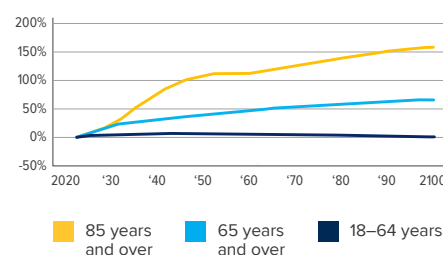
LONG-TERM CARE SETTINGS			
Home Care	Assisted Living	Memory Care	Skilled Nursing
<p>Limited help with hands-on or hands-off daily tasks</p> <p>Live in your private residence and hire outside help (typically 6–8 hours per day) for “hands-on” personal assistance with activities such as bathing, dressing, and eating; does not include “hands-off” tasks such as cooking, cleaning, or living expenses.</p> <p>\$6,292 per month, (\$24,024 for 24/7 care)</p>	<p>Need some assistance with daily activities</p> <p>Live in a private apartment in a community with shared amenities and dedicated 24/7 caregivers to help with daily activities.</p> <p>\$5,350 per month</p>	<p>Need 24/7 care and supervision</p> <p>Live in a private apartment in a secured community with shared amenities and dedicated 24/7 caregivers to help with daily activities.</p> <p>\$6,935 per month</p>	<p>Require 24/7 clinical/nursing care</p> <p>Live in a shared or private room of a institutional health care setting, with shared amenities and 24/7 clinical care.</p> <p>\$9,733 per month</p>
<p>Paid for by Medicare (limited hours for medically-necessary care only), Medicaid (limited by eligibility requirements), private insurance, and personal savings/assets.</p>	<p>Primarily self-funded through seniors' retirement savings, proceeds from sale of their residence, family support, and Social Security (\$1,976/mo average). Medicare and Medicaid are largely not payers (Medicaid does not pay for room and board; more than 15% of residents receive Medicaid funding).</p>		<p>Primarily paid by Medicaid after individuals exhaust their savings and assets, with short-term stays paid by Medicare.</p>

Note: National average, based on Genworth Cost of Care Survey, 2023.

The U.S. population is aging faster than ever before. The number of American aged 65 and older is projected to increase from 58 million today to 82 million by 2050—a 47% increase—while their share of the total population is expected to rise from 17% to 23%. Every day, approximately 11,200 Americans turn 65.

Someone turning 65 today has a 70% chance of needing long-term care at some point in their life. On average, women will need care for 3.7 years, and men for 2.2 years; 20% will need it for more than five years. By 2050, the number of Americans requiring paid long-term care services is expected to double, rising from 14 million today to 27 million.

U.S. Population Growth 2022–2100



Argentum is the leading national association representing 75 percent of professionally managed assisted living, independent living, memory care, and continuing care retirement communities. These communities offer choice, dignity, security, and comfort in the final years of life to nearly two million vulnerable seniors.

