

Department of Aging and Long-Term Living

- Governor Rendell proposes to put long-term living services under the umbrella of one agency that would be renamed the Department of Aging and Long-Term Living.
- This shift will improve services to Pennsylvanians, streamline paperwork for providers and improve businesses practices to make it possible to expand our aging and disabled services.
- A refocused department provides people with disabilities and older adults a permanent solution to a previously fragmented system.
- Over the next 20 years the older adult population will grow by more than one million people, from 15 percent today to more than 22 percent of the total population in the state. The increase in this population and the potential needs of 162,000 people with disabilities currently living in Pennsylvania reinforces the need for a single state level department.
- Separate state level management of nursing facilities and waiver programs created inefficiencies and hindered the rebalancing of home-based and nursing home services. Separate authority and priorities resulted in different customer service levels for consumers and providers, adversely affecting choice and quality.
- Since just 2007, under the Office of Long Term Living, enrollment in the home and community based service waivers have grown by 10 percent. This and other recent progress may be reversed without passing legislation to consolidate operations into one department.
- More than 3,900 people have returned to the community under the efforts of the nursing home transition program. The success of the program rests with the cooperative effort between the aging and disability service networks, and OLTL coordination.
- More than a dozen states (Arizona, Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin) have already consolidated all their long-term care programs into a single state agency serving both senior citizens and adults with disabilities.