



2023-24 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature recommends these priorities to the NC General Assembly.

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#1 **Allocate an additional \$8M in recurring funds for Adult Protective Services (APS) to address staff shortages.**

In SFY 21, APS received 32,075 reports across the state, compared to 14,001 reports in SFY 2005-2006, reflecting an increase of 129% in 17 years.

#2 **Increase the Senior Center General Purpose Appropriation by \$1,265,316 in recurring funds.**

Senior Center General Purpose funding is currently \$1,265,316, which is not meeting the demands of a growing population.

#3 **Allocate an additional \$8M in recurring funds for the Home and Community Care Block Grant.**

The Home and Community Care Block Grant is the primary funding source for community-based programs that support people 60 and older and current funding is insufficient to meet the need. The current state appropriation is \$36.9M.

#4 **Allocate an additional \$1.5M in recurring funds for 11 Additional Long-Term Care Ombudsmen.**

Ombudsmen serve as advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, providing protections for vulnerable elders. The current state appropriation for this program is \$918.8K.

#5 **Strengthen Long-Term Care Staffing Standards.**

In nursing homes, NC mandates minimum staffing standards for RNs and LPNs. For Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), there are no staffing standards, resulting in a strong likelihood of substandard care of frail elders.

These recommendations totaling \$18.75M will provide supportive services and protection for the state's 2.4 million older adults.