

Aging Advocacy Across the States

Overview

Several states expressed an interest in how to engage older stakeholders in advocacy. We asked our members to describe advocacy activities happening in their states. States were asked the following questions and responded to Advancing States via email:

1. Beyond AARP, does your state have any strong advocacy groups? If so, can you share that information with us?
2. Does your state agency do any specific work to engage with older individuals to encourage them to advocate for themselves? If so, can you share that with us as well.

Response Summary

Aging Advocacy Groups

Eighteen of the nineteen states that responded have strong advocacy groups other than AARP in their state. Typical responses included State Long Term Care Ombudsman programs, Silver Haired Legislatures and Senior Lobbies, LeadingAge chapters, Alzheimer’s Association chapters, associations of Area Agencies on Aging, and local nonprofit organizations. (See Table 1)

Table 1: State Advocacy Groups by Types

State	AAA Association	Aging Advisory Councils	Disabilities Organizations	Local Alzheimer’s Association	Local LeadingAge	Silver Haired Legislature/ Senior Lobby	State Agencies/ Commissions on Aging	State Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsma	Other Local Nonprofits
Alaska			x				x	x	x
Arkansas	x								
California		x				x	x		x
Colorado	x				x	x	x		x
Georgia		x		x				x	x
Idaho							x		x
Kentucky	x						x	x	x
Louisiana									x
Missouri						x			
New Hampshire			x				x		x
New Mexico							x		
Oklahoma		x		x	x	x			x
Rhode Island		x			x		x		x
South Carolina	x	x		x		x			x
Tennessee	x		x	x					
Texas					x	x			x
Vermont									x
Washington	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Wisconsin			x	x					x

Specific Work to Engage Older Adults in Advocacy

Eleven states reported their state agencies do specific work to engage with older adults in advocacy. Typical answers included collaborating with established Commissions on Aging, hosting/sponsoring conferences, scheduling listening sessions and townhalls meetings, providing outreach materials, and engaging stakeholder groups. (See Figure 2)

Table 2: State-Specific Activities in Engaging Older Adults in Advocacy

State	Commissions on Aging collaboration	Hosting/ sponsoring conferences and events	Listening sessions/ townhall meetings	Engaging stakeholder groups	Providing advocacy information and resources	Attending community events	Conducts surveys	Other Activities
Alaska	x		x				x	x
Arkansas								
California					x	x		x
Colorado			x					x
Georgia								
Idaho	x							
Kentucky								
Louisiana								
Missouri								
New Hampshire	x							
New Mexico		x						
Oklahoma		x		x				x
Rhode Island			x					
South Carolina	x	x	x	x	x	x		x
Tennessee		x	x	x		x	x	x
Texas								x
Vermont								
Washington	x							x
Wisconsin		x	x					

Appendix

Appendix A: Reported Advocacy Groups Websites

Alaska

- [Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman](#)
- [Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska](#)
- [Alaska Commission on Aging](#)
- [Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority](#)
- [Office of Public Advocacy, Elder Fraud Assistance Education](#)
- Alaska Geriatric Exchange Network (AgeNet)
- [Mat-Su Health Foundation](#)

Arkansas

- [Arkansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#)

California

- [California Senior Legislature](#)
- [Congress of California Seniors](#)
- [Triple-A Council of California](#)
- [California Commission on Aging](#)
- [Gray Panthers of San Francisco](#)
- [Older Women's League of San Francisco](#)

Colorado

- [Colorado Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(C4A\)](#)
- [Colorado Senior Lobby](#)
- [LeadingAge Colorado](#)
- [Colorado Health Care Association & Center for Assisted Living](#)
- [Home Care Association of Colorado](#)
- [The Bell Policy Center](#)
- [Colorado Gerontological Society](#)
- [Colorado Commission on Aging](#)
- [Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging](#)
- Colorado Coalition for Aging Research and Education (COCare)
- Aging Dialogue Group

Georgia

- [Georgia Council on Aging](#)
- [Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly \(CO-AGE\)](#)
- [Georgia Long Term Care Ombudsman](#)
- [Georgia Gerontology Society \(GGS\)](#)
- [Alzheimer's Association – Georgia Chapter](#)
- [Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan Policy Committee](#)

Idaho

- [Idaho Commission on Aging](#)
- [Idaho Caregiver Alliance](#)

Kentucky

- [Kentucky Association of Area Agencies on Aging](#)
- [The Bluegrass District Long Term Care Ombudsman Program](#)
- [Kentucky Attorney General, Office of Senior Protection](#)
- [Kentucky Association for Gerontology](#)
- [Kentucky Association of Adult Day Centers](#)

Louisiana

- The Assistant Secretary of the Office of Aging and Adult Services filed a concurrent resolution in the current legislative session to create the Aging and Adults with Disabilities Council.

Missouri

- [Missouri Silver Haired Legislature](#)

New Hampshire

- [Disability Rights Center of New Hampshire](#)
- [State Committee on Aging](#)
- [New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging](#)
- [Elder Rights Coalition of New Hampshire](#)
- [New Hampshire Legal Assistance](#)

New Mexico

- [New Mexico Aging and Long Term Service Department](#) – 11 Member Policy and Advisory Committee

Oklahoma

- [Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature](#)
- [Alzheimer’s Association – Oklahoma Chapter](#)
- [LeadingAge Oklahoma](#)
- [Oklahoma State Council on Aging](#)
- Oklahoma Aging Academy Leadership Academy
- [Oklahoma Alliance on Aging](#)
- [Oklahoma Association of Home Care and Hospice](#)
- [Life Senior Services](#)
- The Oklahoma Aging Partnership

Rhode Island

- [LeadingAge Rhode Island](#)
- [Long Term Care Coordinating Council](#)
- [Rhode Island Commission on Aging](#)
- [Rhode Island Home and Community Care Advisory Council](#)
- [Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island](#)
- [Age Friendly Rhode Island](#)

South Carolina

- South Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- [South Carolina Silver Haired Legislature](#)
- [Alzheimer’s Association of South Carolina](#)
- [South Carolina Advisory Council on Aging](#)
- South Carolina Association of Councils on Aging Directors
- [South Carolina Institute of Medicine and Public Health – Long Term Care Taskforce](#)
- [Low Country Aging Network of the Charleston Area](#)

Tennessee

- [Tennessee Area Agencies on Aging and Disability](#)
- [Tennessee Alzheimer’s Association](#)
- [The ARC of Tennessee](#)
- [Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Tennessee Disabilities Coalition](#)
- [Family Voices of Tennessee](#)
- [Disabilities Rights Tennessee](#)

Texas

- [Texas Silver Haired Legislature](#)
- [Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition](#)
- [Leading Age Texas](#)
- [Meals on Wheels Association of Texas](#)
- [Texas Assisted Living Association](#)
- [Texas Area Agencies on Aging](#)

Vermont

- [Community of Vermont Elders \(COVE\)](#)

Washington

- [Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging \(W4A\)](#)
- Washington State Area Agencies on Aging
- [Washington State Senior Citizens Lobby](#)
- [Washington State Long Term Care Ombudsman](#)
- [LeadingAge Washington](#)
- [State Council on Aging](#)
- [Washington Health Care Association](#)
- [Adult Family Council](#)
- Home Care Coalition
- [SEIU 775NW](#)

Wisconsin

- [Alzheimer’s Association – Wisconsin Chapters](#)
- [Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations](#)
- [Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network](#)