

# WE ARE CONCERNED about our parents' (and our) future...

## 1 Dramatically Growing Need

### Ohio's population is aging rapidly

- In **2000**, there were **1.5 million** Ohioans 65 and older
- **2020** projected to be **2.1 million**
- **2040**, **2.8 million** with 20% over the age of 85

*"Ohio's population is aging rapidly."...with the state experiencing "unprecedented changes as the population shifts older."*

*(Scripps Gerontology Center www.ohio-population.org)*

### Declining number of family caregivers available

Changing family demographics, more women in the workforce, creating increased reliance on paid caregivers.

**U.S.:** "...**17%** of working adults care for a family member or friend, with this care valued at **\$470 billion per year**. In the coming years, the U.S. will see the pool of informal caregivers upon which it relies shrink, from **7.2 potential caregivers** per person in need, down to **2.9 potential caregivers** per person in need in 2050."

*(LeadingAge "Pathways" Report 2015)*



**Ohio:** The caregiver gap. By 2050 in Ohio, there will be only **3 potential caregivers** for every person of late old age.



AARP Public Policy Institute

## 2 Cost of Long-term Services

**Cost of long-term services and supports will exponentially increase for our families ...and Ohio (with increased reliance on formal public support services)**

*"... A higher proportion of the older population experiences poverty, compared to other adults. In addition, those at very advanced ages are mostly women who have outlived their spouses and most likely live alone. **The combination of lower income, living alone and higher prevalence of disability among older women are all contributors to the need for long-term care services and supports.**"*

*(Scripps Gerontology Center, 2013. Projections and Characteristics of the 60+ Population.)*

**Low savings.** "...the average person over 65 has saved only **\$156,000 in financial assets and home equity**, while the average person experiencing a high need for long-term services and supports will rack up **\$138,000 in healthcare-related expenses**, with one in seven incurring **over \$250,000** of healthcare-related expenses."

*(LeadingAge "Pathways" Report 2015)*

## 3 Access to Diverse Programs

**Ohio needs to act now to ensure access to diverse cost effective programs that meet our current...and future needs.**

- The current system (both federal and state Medicaid budget) is considered **unsustainable** long-term as the demographics shift. We must use public dollars as wisely and efficiently as possible, now and in the future.
- **Increased access is needed** to a broad array of service options that are cost-effective and fit our needs.

**Mission:**  
**To advocate and share the voices of older Ohioans and our needs so that we can age in the place we call home.**

# Now is the time to act!