

**Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas Priorities
2025 Legislative Session**

The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas supports the following Legislative Budget Priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session. These budget priorities recommend significant funding increases for Florida's home and community-based care programs to serve seniors on the waiting list who are most at-risk for nursing home care. These long-standing, essential and efficient senior programs have a successful track record and return on investment for Florida's taxpayers, providing essential services such as home-delivered meals, personal care, respite care, transportation, chore, homemaker services, etc., allowing seniors to remain at home safely and with dignity and avoid or delay the need for more costly nursing home care.

These budget priorities are aligned with the recommendations found in the Department of Elder Affairs Legislative Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and are also supported by the Florida Legislature's 3-Year Long Range Financial Outlook for FY 2025-2026.

Program	Recommended Increase	Additional Seniors Served
1. Community Care for the Elderly:	\$8,000,000	1,233
2. Home Care for the Elderly:	\$7,000,000	1,820
3. Alzheimer's Respite Care:	\$6,000,000	412

The Department of Elder Affairs also has a bill to open Chapter 430, the statute under which the AAAs operate.

HB1457 / SB1086

The House bill is sponsored by Representative Rizzo(R) Hialeah and the Senate bill is sponsored by Senator Cory Simon(R) Tallahassee.

The AAAs were able to provide input into the Bills with the House bill more closely reflecting changes to the current statute that benefit seniors including:

Removal of all client co pays for CCE and ADI programs

Providing AAAs with more flexibility when lead agencies are out of compliance with contractual obligations

The AAAs are concerned with language that provides DOEA with direct service provision authority, potentially centralizing some services in Tallahassee that are efficiently currently provided locally in each planning and service area. Tweaking the language would help clarify that.