

**You Needed**

**Me...Now I**

**Need You**

**Making Our Communities  
More Livable for  
Older Oklahomans**

## Side 2

Despite huge cuts in state funding from 2002 – 2004 for critical programs and agencies supporting vital services for the elderly, the need for such services has continued its steady and dramatic climb. Currently, seniors comprise a full 13.2% of our state's population, compared with only 12.4% nationally. From 2000 to 2015, the population of Oklahomans over 65 is expected to grow at nearly three times the rate of the overall population! Those populations over 75 and 85 will grow at even more dramatic rates. Compounding the problems that we face in providing for our parents and grandparents, is rampant poverty among our seniors. Current census data indicates that poverty is widely prevalent among people age 65 and older, with many unable to afford necessary medications and basics such as food and adequate housing. Our state must be prepared to provide for these, some of our most vulnerable and needy citizens.

We must make a commitment for our parents and grandparents, as a caring and compassionate society. We should adequately fund needed services, as follows :

- Substantial increases in funding for the nursing facility quality initiative for direct care staffing, and funding for in-home and community-based services.
- Substantial increases in funding to support the increased demand for ADvantageWaiver services and Personal Care services, and new and expanded contracts for adult day services.
- Substantial increases in funding for Aging Services to cover senior transportation, nutrition, and home-delivered meals through the statewide aging network including projects in your community.

The elderly who need our care today have given us their love and compassion for generations. They have taught our children, have nursed our sick, built our roads, and fought in our wars. We needed them. Now, they need us. Please do not turn your backs on those to whom we owe our great quality of life.

---

We ask you to join the nearly 500,000 Oklahomans that support this initiative to address the needs of the frail elderly in Oklahoma.

### Organizational Supporters

AARP

Oklahoma Association of Homes and  
Services for the Aging

Oklahoma State Council on Aging

Oklahoma Alliance on Aging

Oklahoma Retired Educators Association

Adult Day Services Association of Oklahoma

### Legislative Supporters