



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600
October 9, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader,

AARP released its fourth iteration of the Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Scorecard on September 24. Washington state's overall score ranks us as 2nd in the nation.

The full report can be found

at: <http://www.longtermscorecard.org/~media/Microsite/Files/2020/LTSS%202020%20Short%20Report%20PDF%20923.pdf> and is attached to this message.

The data in the *2020 LTSS Scorecard* provides the foundation for measuring and comparing state LTSS systems utilizing a set of measures that are readily available across most states. It is important to note that the scorecard is not a report on the impact of COVID-19 on individuals who need LTSS or how states have addressed the pandemic in long-term care settings.

This scorecard ranks states and Washington, D.C. in order from 1 to 51 on a wide range of issues pertaining to older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers and families. The LTSS scorecard has five domains that states are ranked within, and each of those domains has multiple indicators that are used to derive the overall score. The domains include:

- Affordability and Access
- Choice of Setting and Provider
- Support for Family Caregivers
- Effective Transitions
- Quality of Life and Quality of Care

Washington improved in 4 of the domains, receiving high marks in the top quartile of the nation in Affordability and Access, Choice of Setting and Provider, Support for Family Caregivers, and Effective Transitions. We are proud of the continued improvements made in our state to assist individuals in need of long-term services and supports. This achievement is the result of decades of hard work, strategic decisions, the partnerships and consultations we foster in our government-to-government relationship with our tribes, our close relationships in working with our stakeholders and a common understanding that people want and deserve choice in where they age, the services they receive and who their support network is.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our tribal governments for the work you do each day to support and provide LTSS to so many Washingtonians in need. Our hope is that the 2020 LTSS Scorecard sparks ongoing conversations and action in our state so we may continue to assess our performance across multiple dimensions and indicators, learn from others, and improve the lives of older adults, people with physical disabilities, and their families.

It is important to note that Washington state delivers this high level of service in a truly efficient, cost-effective manner in comparison to other states. Overall, we continue to be pleased with our performance on the Scorecard. Our support for family caregivers, our first-in-the-nation establishment of a public LTSS insurance benefit program, and our development of specialized services to assist our diverse population in need of information, options counseling and/or services to support their goals and preferences continue to make us a national leader in the provision of LTSS.

Thank you, again, for all you do to support Washingtonians in need and your contributions to this national leadership in LTSS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Moss", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Moss
Assistant Secretary
Aging and Long-Term Support
Administration

DSHS: *Transforming Lives*

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