



# Seniors SPEAK

NEBRASKA

“Because of overwhelming medical costs, my husband and I depleted our funds and rely solely on Medicaid to pay for health care services. We never anticipated being in this situation and because of our outstanding facility, we’ve continued to receive the care we need.”

– Lilian E, Crete, NE

## The reality of growing older in Nebraska

### Funding Shortfalls

On average, skilled nursing facilities lose \$34 a day when caring for a resident covered by Medicaid. Further Medicaid cuts will drastically affect the lives of residents, their families, and their ability to access services.

### Community Impact

33 Nebraska facilities have closed in the last three years because management was unable to sustain operations and an additional 33 are currently under state receivership. Adequate funding continues to be a concern.

### The Demand for Caregivers

By 2026, nearly 16,000 nursing assistants will be needed to provide care in Nebraska’s skilled nursing facilities. Sadly, the probability of filling those positions is low.

### Changing Needs

As life expectancy increases and the needs of the aging population evolve, it is vital they have continued access to various levels of care.

### Tsunami of Baby Boomers

Nebraska census data reinforces the notion that there will be a great surge in baby boomers living in our state and a sharp decline of individuals available to provide care. From 2010-2050, Nebraskans ages 70 and older will increase by six times the projected increase of the under 70 population.

### Where Seniors Live

Nebraska has 80 rural counties that account for 35% of the state’s population. More than half of Nebraskans ages 85 or older reside in those communities. With limited long-term care options, some seniors will need to leave their communities to access services.

Seniors Speak is an initiative by the Nebraska Health Care Association and LeadingAge Nebraska that gives our seniors a voice to ensure Nebraska voters and legislators understand Medicaid funding for elderly residents must remain a priority in our state budget.

Learn more and hear from Nebraska’s seniors at [SeniorsSpeakNE.org](http://SeniorsSpeakNE.org)