

Connecticut Launches New Long-Term Care Web Site



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Photo: Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell

Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell announced today that the state has launched a new consumer-friendly [Web site](#) to help persons of all ages and health status, caregivers and professional providers locate critically needed services.

"Whether we require care ourselves or provide it for a loved one or friend, virtually all of us are likely to be touched by the need for long-term care at some point in our lives," said Rell. "The new Web site aims to help improve the lives of people needing long-term care now and to help those who will need it in the future -- meaning most of us -- plan ahead."

The governor said the state recognized a growing need to provide easier access to comprehensive information on long-term care because most people erroneously believe it refers exclusively to institutional care, particularly for older adults.

"In reality, hundreds of thousands of residents of all ages require long-term care because it encompasses the array of services and supports needed for extended periods by people with ... disabilities or those who are chronically ill," Rell said. "They may need or desire care in a variety of settings including their own home, an adult day care center, nursing home or assisted living facility."

Connecticut's 2007 Long-Term Care Plan says long-term care covers services needed to help people with basic functions such as eating, dressing or bathing or tasks necessary for independent community living such as shopping, managing finances or house cleaning. These needs are being met at home, in the community, in congregate residences or in institutions.

According to government estimates, the number of Americans needing long-term care could soar from 15 million in 2000 to 27 million by 2050.

In Connecticut, the total demand for services among those 40 and older is expected to jump from 188,031 people in 2006 to 240,238 by 2030, a 28 percent increase.

In addition to serving consumers who need long-term care, the Web site is a one-stop information source for the growing number of family and friend "informal" caregivers and for professional providers of long-term care services.

The General Assembly directed the state Office of Policy and Management to develop the site in consultation with representatives from the Connecticut Commission on Aging, Office of Policy and Management, Long-Term Care Advisory Council and Infoline.

"We're very pleased that this successful and very timely collaboration between the Executive and Legislative branches of government has resulted in such a useful tool to serve our present and future generations," Rell said.

The Web site utilizes the United Way's 2-1-1 Infoline database and other sources to provide information under the following headings:

- What is long-term care?
- Determining needs
- Finding care and support
- Paying for your needs
- Places to live
- Planning for long-term care
- Rights and legal matters
- Directory of providers

"We're seeing an increasing demand for long-term care information to help older adults and persons of all ages with disabilities and it's clear the need will grow significantly over the next several decades," said Connecticut Commission on Aging Executive Director Julia Evans Starr. "People need information on the variety of services that will help them lead more independent lives in the least restrictive setting -- whenever possible in their own homes and communities," she said.