

PROGRAMS FOR DEPENDENT SENIORS AND SENIORS NEAR THE END OF LIFE

Issues: Frail or dependent seniors need long-term care in a home or home-like environment, surrounded by their memories, family, and friends. The development of long-term services requires the creation of new programs and services adapted to the needs and desires of older adults that can be sustained with available resources. In the final stage of life, the older patient needs quality palliative care at home or in a long-term care institution in order to avoid long and unnecessary hospitalisation.

Public policies for active aging also include persons who have lost the capacity of performing basic activities of daily living. The policies and programs ensure and promote the rights of older dependent persons; they act to remedy inequities in health; and they promote specific measures to provide long term care for persons who need it and palliative care for older patients in the final stage of life.

Supports to be developed by the various sectors

EDUCATION	HOUSING	TRANSPORTATION	WORK/SOCIAL SEC.	SOCIAL AND LEGAL	HEALTH
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of health care personnel in geriatrics. 2. Creation of training programs in palliative care. 3. Grassroots education programs on the rights of persons in the final stage of life and on the need to prepare wills and advance health care directives. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adaptation of housing for the needs of older persons with severe disabilities and long term care needs. 2. Accessible Assisted Living programs for dependent persons. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specialized transportation for persons with severe disabilities. 2. Accessible transportation for caregivers. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standardisation of minimum requirements for providers of care for older persons in assisted living facilities and in home health care programs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluation, co-ordination, and management of community services for older persons with long term care needs. 2. Legal, social, and financial support for protection against abuse, neglect or mistreatment of seniors. 3. Psychosocial and spiritual programs. 4. Subsidies for funeral costs for low-income families. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Availability of and access to medical and home support services. 2. Regulated and monitored standards for assisted-living and long-term care institutions. 3. Quality and respectful care in long-term care institutions. 4. Palliative care, including pain and symptom management.