

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington state is nationally recognized for long-term services and supports where older adults can live and age with dignity, independence and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that by 2030, one in every five Washingtonians will be older than 65, which provides our state with an opportunity to harness powerful resources, including their skills, wisdom and knowledge; and

WHEREAS, Washington is committed to supporting longevity by developing an age- and dementia-friendly state in which state agencies and community partners work collaboratively to provide healthcare, long-term care, transportation, housing, employee supports and more throughout the state, including new investments in rural areas to meet the needs of adults to live longer, healthier lives; and

WHEREAS, Washington is committed to securing the basic needs supporting older adults by supporting nutrition programs that reduce hunger and offer social connection for more than 94,000 adults over 60 experiencing food insecurity in our state, along with Family Caregiver Support Programs, Kinship Programs and legal services that help people avoid more expensive services and long-term care options; and

WHEREAS, Washington is taking steps to reframe aging issues by spreading awareness of bias toward older people along with the value, wisdom and resiliency of older adults to advance a more complete story about aging in our state, and we recognize the need to also address bias against older adults who experience physical or mental disabilities or cultural, social or geographical isolation due to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, Washington is committed to supporting our community members by offering exploration of diverse aging experiences, as well as volunteer opportunities, through our extensive aging network that includes Area Agencies on Aging, senior centers and long-term service providers; and

WHEREAS, Older Americans Month recognizes the importance of social connection on health and well-being, including the critical work done by senior centers, family caregivers, direct care workers, community meal sites, Area Agencies on Aging, and other home and community-based service organizations that serves to mitigate the adverse effects of social isolation on older adults;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

Older Americans Month

in Washington and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 24th day of April, 2026

Governor Bob Ferguson

