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Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Ohio

## **STATES RECOGNIZED FOR LEADERSHIP IN IMPROVING LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS**

### ***The SCAN Foundation announces 2020 Pacesetter Prize winners***

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Policymakers in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio received the 2020 Pacesetter Prize for leadership in improving long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers in their state. The award is given by The SCAN Foundation, an independent public charity devoted to transforming care for older adults in ways that preserve dignity and encourage independence. LTSS address personal needs like bathing, dressing, and eating, as well as more complex needs like administering medications and managing ongoing medical issues.

To identify winners, The SCAN Foundation conducted an analysis of [AARP's 2020 Long-Term Services and Supports State Scorecard](#), which provides a picture of LTSS system performance *prior to the* COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic has drawn attention to why strong LTSS systems are needed in every state.

Each winning state is awarded the Pacesetter Prize for a set of improvements or innovations in a specific category, or dimension, of LTSS. Prize organizers say winning states demonstrably created an environment where older adults, people with disabilities, and family caregivers can live life to its fullest. The specific dimensions, and the winning state for each dimension, are:

- **Affordability and Access:** Connecticut received the 2020 prize for its robust program offerings – featuring extensive benefit options – for people with and without Medicaid. The state uses a data-driven approach to communicate with the public about LTSS programs.
- **Choice of Setting and Provider:** New Jersey received the 2020 prize for being a national leader in utilizing managed care to give people who need LTSS more choices of care providers and settings for receiving LTSS. It greatly increased access to home- and community-based settings for Medicare-eligible adults with complex care needs.
- **Support for Family Caregivers:** New York received the 2020 prize for its comprehensive approach to empowering family caregivers across government programs and agencies. It is a leader in strengthening paid family leave laws and expanding transportation options to support caregivers.
- **Effective Transitions:** Ohio received the 2020 prize for its successful efforts to move people who need LTSS out of institutions and back into the community. The state works to integrate LTSS services with health plans, which has brought relief to thousands of residents.

“The Pacesetter Prize recognizes leading states that are setting the pace in enhancing services and improving quality of care for their older residents, people with disabilities, and family caregivers,” said Bruce Chernof, president and CEO of The SCAN Foundation. “We applaud Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio for elevating best practices for all states and making measurable efforts to improve

their systems of care now and for the future.”

Overall, national support for LTSS is improving but more needs to be done, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. By 2030, 20 percent of the nation’s population will be age 65 or older. As more Americans age, the need for comprehensive LTSS in every state will become more apparent.

Pacesetter Prize-winning states will come together to discuss best practices and reflect on LTSS improvements during a webinar later this year.

To learn more about The SCAN Foundation and its Pacesetter Prize, visit <https://www.thescanfoundation.org/recognizing-excellence/pacesetter-prize/>

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**About The SCAN Foundation**

*The SCAN Foundation is an independent public charity dedicated to creating a society where older adults can access health and supportive services of their choosing to meet their needs. Our mission is to advance a coordinated and easily navigated system of high-quality services for older adults that preserve dignity and independence. For more information, visit [www.TheSCANFoundation.org](http://www.TheSCANFoundation.org).*