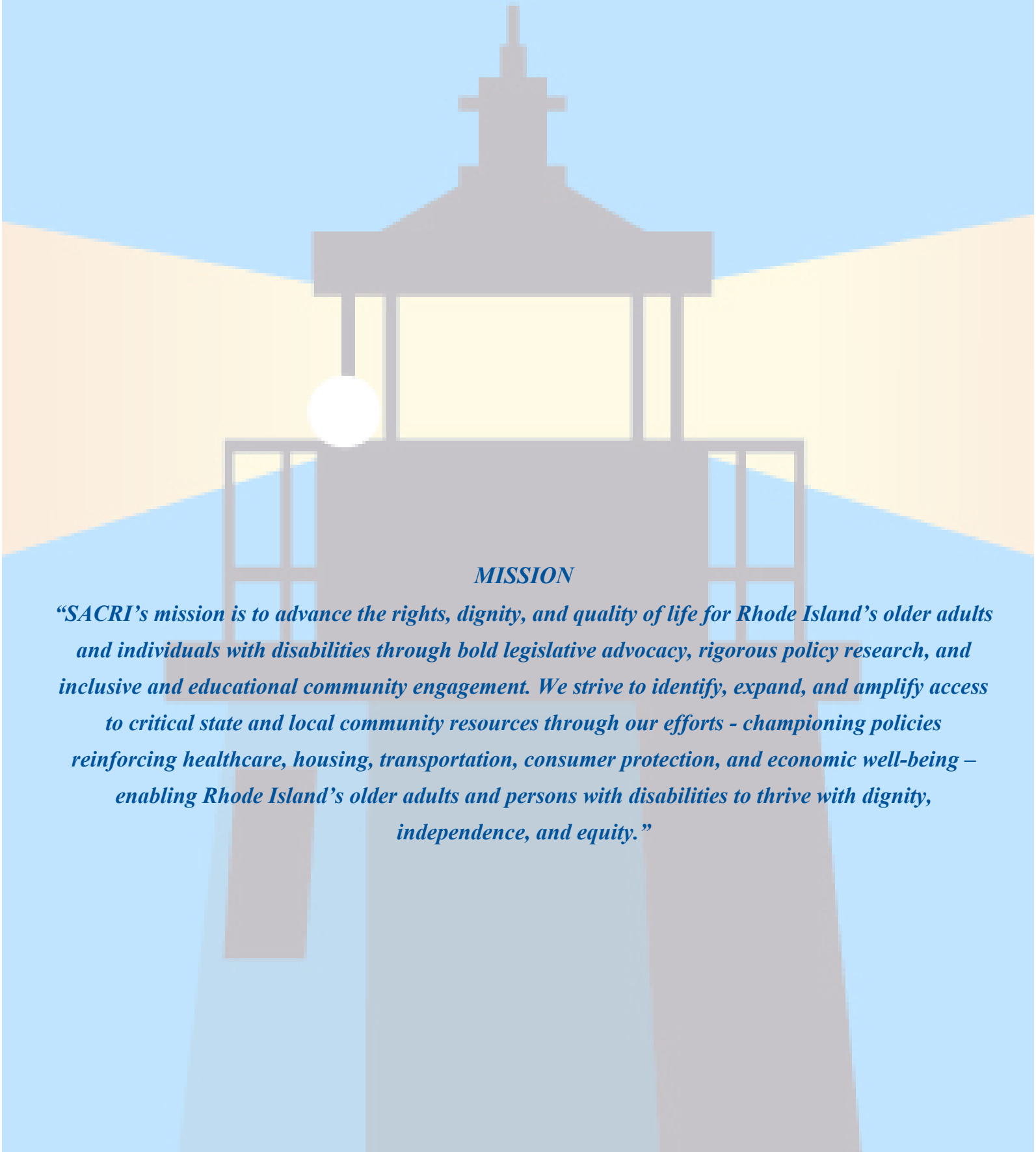
2025 SACRI Report

11/2025

The Beacon



MISSION

"SACRI's mission is to advance the rights, dignity, and quality of life for Rhode Island's older adults and individuals with disabilities through bold legislative advocacy, rigorous policy research, and inclusive and educational community engagement. We strive to identify, expand, and amplify access to critical state and local community resources through our efforts - championing policies reinforcing healthcare, housing, transportation, consumer protection, and economic well-being – enabling Rhode Island's older adults and persons with disabilities to thrive with dignity, independence, and equity."

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A word from the Executive Director
Carol Anne Costa

To our dedicated SACRI Members, Associates, Affiliates, and RI Leaders, as I mark my initial fifteen months as Executive Director of SACRI (Senior Agenda Coalition of RI), as I reflect on the immense progress we have collectively achieved, I thank you. I am profoundly grateful for your dedication—your energy is the engine that driving SACRI forward and continuing to work on behalf of RI's older adults & adults with disabilities.

SACRI focusing on policy outreach and education is stronger today than ever before. We are witnessing a significant surge in our membership numbers, both individual and affiliates, expansion of our base of engaged advocates and solidifying our voice statewide. This growth has been reflected in SACRI's bottom line establishing aa strong foundation for long-term sustainability. This foundation empowers us to increase our investment in our mission and vision.

This increased strength has translates directly into the tangible legislative victories at the State House. (Refer to Maureen Maigrets's legislative review). During the 2025 session, SACRI championed critical bills directly benefiting Rhode Island older adults, encompassing key successes in consumer protection, increased funding for vital health, strengthening workforce development, elevated awareness of building accessibility, and expanded in-home care services.

Our goal is to be the voice and beacon of older adults and adults with disabilities. We have strived to achieve this goal, in large part, collectively due to your voices, your voices, emails, and letters as advocates for equitable citizenship. These victories are a testament to our focused strategy and our unwavering commitment to policy that truly impacts lives.

Our community outreach efforts to support and empower our quarter million constituents have dramatically expanded our footprint across RI. We have launched new community partnerships and initiatives designed to engage diverse populations of older adults and adults with disabilities. We are listening to and advocating for their needs. Our workshops and informational sessions have reached hundreds of RIers, empowering individuals with resources, knowledge, and the confidence to seek support of our elected leaders.

SACRI's progress over the last fifteen months—in growth, policy, and outreach—is a shared success story. Thank you for making these accomplishments a realty. I look forward to building on this momentum as we head into 2026.

With regards and deep gratitude,

Carol

Maureen Maigret

SACRI Policy and Advocacy Report

A Year of Advocacy and Achievement

Maureen Maigret, Policy Advisor

SACRI had a busy and productive year during the 2025 General Assembly session. After years of persistent advocacy, we achieved a major victory with the inclusion of authorization language and $7.1 million in the state budget to expand income eligibility for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP). Beginning next March, hundreds of lower-income Rhode Islanders on Medicare will be eligible to have their Part B premiums paid, saving them over $2,000 annually, and they will also qualify for lower prescription costs through the federal Extra Help program. This landmark win was made possible through the efforts of our partners and legislative sponsors, Rep. Karen Alzate and Sen. Louis DiPalma.

Throughout the session, SACRI monitored hundreds of bills for their impact on older adults and adults with disabilities. Guided by our Policy Committee, led by Diane Santos, and in collaboration with Voices for Better Health and other partners, we supported 43 pieces of legislation through oral or written testimony. Many of the measures we backed that passed into law addressed health and long-term care, consumer protections, and housing issues.

As the legislature adjourned, SACRI continued its advocacy at the federal and state levels—ensuring that policy and budget decisions, including changes made as a result of HR1 (OBBB) passed by Congress and proposed Medicaid and Office of Healthy Aging cuts, consider the needs of Rhode Island's growing older population.

A Message from Kathy McKeon, Board Chair

What a year we've had in 2025!

Certainly, a year of transitions – our first full year with our Executive Director Carol Costa, who burst on the scene and has not run out of energy yet! Karen Hollands has become an integral part of the team with her excellent organizational skills and computer expertise. Rounding out our team is one of the best policy analysts in RI, Maureen Maigret. We have added three senior fellows whose hard work is already making a difference. Our Board stands today at 14 strong, in spite of some comings and some goings and some serious health challenges in 2025. We have experience and talents in abundance in this group and we will continue to grow in 2026.

My thanks to all of you for your commitment to SACRI and your compassion for older adults and adults with special needs. Now, more than ever, we need the strong voice of SACRI.

It's my privilege to lead the charge into 2026.

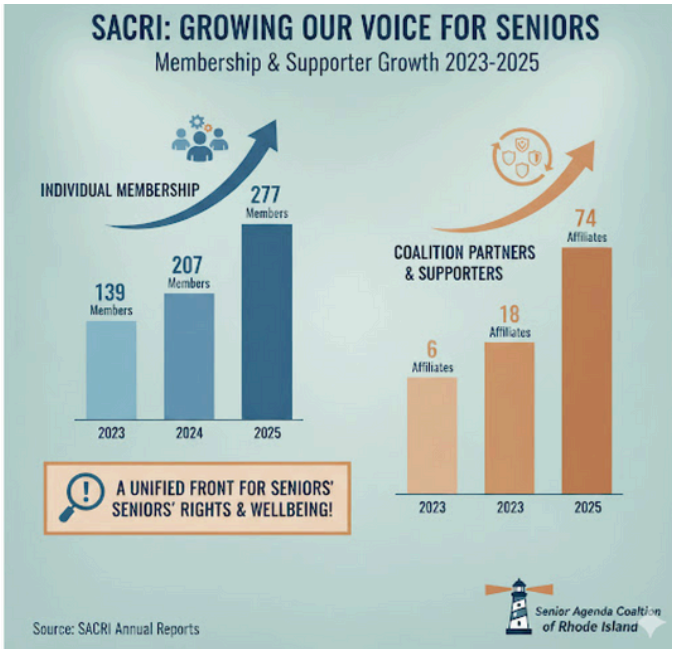
Kathy McKeon

SACRI is grateful and honored to have collaborated with so many partners in the aging and disability space in RI. Through various events, presentations, outreach, research initiatives, and professional development, SACRI has made incredible strides in growing our base of partners. Thank you to all our collaborators, as we move forward to do the work.

A Community Together
AAA
AARP
Act Neighbors
Advocates for Better Care
Advocates for COLA Restoration and Pension Reform
Age Ambassador
Aldersbridge Communities
Alliance for Better Long-Term Care
RI Alzheimer's Association
American Baptist Churches or RI Elder Care Ministries
Asthenis Pharmacy
Brown School of Public Health (RI Voices Project)
Butler Hospital's Memory and Aging Program
Carelink
Care Breaks
The Care Concierge
Child and Family
City of Providence - Senior Services
Connected Communities
Cranston Department Senior Services
CPNRI
DHS ATEL
DHS RI Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Encompass Health
EPI RI
Federal Hill House
Friends of Jamestown Seniors
Funeral Consumers Alliance of RI Inc
Hamilton House
Hope Health Co
Horizon Healthcare Partners
In-Sight
Johnston Housing Authority
JPM Associates
Just A.S.K. Aphasia Stroke Knowledge
K2 Medical Research
Leadership RI
Matthew XXV
McCarthy Law
Meals on Wheels RI
Moonan & Stratton Law
MyDirectives
Nardollillo Funeral Home
Newport County Parents Advocacy
Newport County Mental Health

Oak Street Health
Oakley Home Access
Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL)
Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)
Office of the Longterm Care Ombudsman
PACE
People's Credit Union
Pilgrim Senior Center
Pride in Aging
Protect Our Healthcare Coalition
Raise the Bar Coalition
Kenneth Raspallo
Micahel Raspallo
ReFocus, Inc.
Rhode Island Coalition for Elder Justice
Rhode Island Credit Union
RI Funeral Directors Association
Rhode Island Legal Services Inc.
Rhode Island Organizing Project
RI Commission on the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
RI Department of Health
RI Elder Info
RIPIN
Saint Elizabeth Community
The Samaritans RI
Scandinavian Communities
St. Martin de Porres
Tori Lynn Andreozzi Foundation
Tri-County Community Action Agency
United Way of RI
Village Common of Rhode Island
Warwick Housing Authority
We Can Help You.Org
Well Ordered Transitions
West Bay Community Action
White Cross Pharmacy
Wiggin Village

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." Henry Ford



Funders, Sponsors & Supporters

SACRI is fortunate to have partners who fuel our mission with their financial support. Without this critical money our work would cease.
This would be a blow to the success we have gained through the years to increase awareness, formulate policy and law and do the day-to-day work to ensure the wellbeing of RI's older adults and adults with disabilities. We remain grateful for their support.

Operational Support:
$150,920.00
Point32Health Foundation
RI Foundation
Brown University RI Life Index
RIOP- Catalyst

Sponsorship: Support:
$29,100.00
United Healthcare
Delta Dental of RI
Neighborhood Health Plan of RI
Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI
Age Friendly RI
SEIU- 1199 NE
Navigant Credit Union
Coastal1 Credit Union
JPM Associates

BOARD

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STAFF

Carol Anne Costa, Executive Director
Karen Hollands, Assistant to Director
Maureen Maigret, Policy Advisor

Senior Fellows

Dr. Katharine Leigh
Millie Lukens
Michael Raspallo

2026 CALENDAR

Board Meetings at 4pm via Zoom unless stated otherwise

1.20.26 Board Meeting

2.17.26 Board Meeting

3.13.26 Legislative Forum (Rhode Island College)

3.17.26 Board Meeting

4.21.26 Board Meeting

5.19.26 Board Meeting

6.16.26 Board Meeting

7.21.26 Tentative

8.12.26 TBD - Candidates Forum

8.18.26 Board Meeting

9.12.26 9am-12pm: In Person Meeting -TBD

10.2.26 2026 Conference & Expo
(Rhodes on the Pawtuxet)

10.20.26 Board Meeting

11.17.26 Annual Meeting of the SACRI Board
In Person - Location TBD

12.22.26 Tentative

2026 Election Days:
9.8.2026 Primary
11.3.2026 General Election

Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island

NEW BOARD MEMBER RESOURCE PAGE

This is a password protected exclusive link on our website, for SACRI Board Members and Staff. Resources will include Calendar of Events - Current BOD Listing - BOD Forms - UBER & LYFT Account credentials - and more.
Full instructions to follow.

What's on the Agenda for 2026

SACRI 2026 Policy Priorities

Protecting the Health and Well-Being of Rhode Island's Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

Safeguard Core Benefits & Services

- Protect and strengthen Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for vulnerable residents.
- Ensure adequate state funding for long-term services and supports (LTSS).

Expand Access to Home & Community-Based Services

- Increase investment in home and community-based services (HCBS) so more Rhode Islanders can age in place.
- Secure funding for programs that address food insecurity among older adults, including senior centers and meal delivery services.

Invest in Housing and Accessibility

- Advocate for more affordable, accessible housing for seniors and people with disabilities.
- Fund home modification and accessibility programs to support independent living.

Advance Health Equity & Holistic Care

- Promote policies addressing the social determinants of health: transportation, access to preventive healthcare, and culturally competent services.
- Expand support for behavioral and mental health services.

Strengthen Federal and State Support Systems

- Oppose any cuts or threats to federal and state safety net programs that support basic needs for Rhode Islanders.
- Prioritize full funding for core state assistance programs that fill critical gaps.

Grow Empowerment & Engagement

- Expand SACRI's outreach across all municipalities, bringing individual experiences to policy tables.
- Strengthen SACRI's role as a convener and resource for research, education, and rapid policy response.

Rhode Island's population is aging rapidly; the moment for wise, bold investments is now.
Inaction risks strain on families, higher healthcare costs, and deepened inequality as needs grow.

Save the Date Legislative Leaders Forum RI College 3.13.2026

SACRI.ORG

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