

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Washington state is home to nearly 1.9 million Americans 60 and older who have contributed their efforts and time to make Washington the great state it is today, including its nationally recognized long-term services and supports system, which helps older adults to live and age with dignity, independence, and quality of life; and we recognize that by 2030, all baby boomers will be older than 65, expanding the size of the older population so that 1-in-5 Washingtonians will be at retirement age, with the number of older adults significantly outpacing the growth of working-age adults; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington is actively exploring ways to connect across state agencies and the community partners that provide health care, long-term care, transportation, housing, employee supports, and more to better coordinate and meet the needs of adults enjoying greater longevity; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington is committed to supporting older adults by reducing hunger for the more than 65,000 who are experiencing food insecurity and offering social connection through senior nutrition programs; 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 of color, LGBTQ+ older adults, older women, members of diverse cultures/religions, and the many ways in which these identities intersect.; and

**WHEREAS**, Washington is committed to supporting our community members by offering an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences and volunteer opportunities; providing abundant activities and social opportunities for older adults and their family caregivers to explore new ideas and participate in social groups, fitness classes, and volunteer programs; and providing learning opportunities on how to care for someone who is experiencing dementia; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Older Americans Month theme, "Powered by Connection," recognizes current evidence demonstrating the importance of social connection on health and wellbeing, including the critical work that senior centers, family caregivers, direct care workers, community meal sites, area agencies on aging, and other home and community-based service organizations provide to mitigate the adverse effects of social isolation on older adults;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2024 as

### ***Older Americans Month***

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

Signed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

