



Protect the physical and mental health of Washington's aging population

Care for Washington's elders with a workforce of Teaching Artists trained in therapeutic arts.

Operating Budget Request

\$400,000 annually

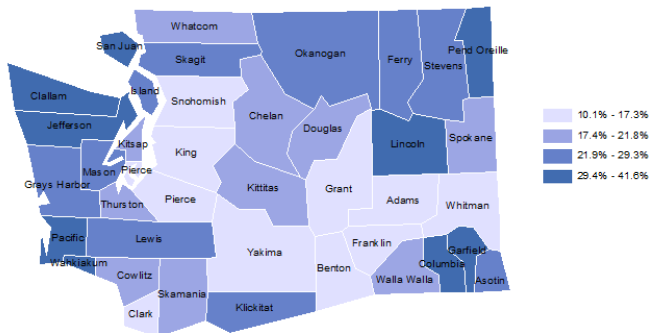
Not funded

in the Governor's budget

Washington's population is aging. The 65+ population increased by more than 60% from 2010 to 2022.¹ Now more than ever, our state needs a diverse portfolio of resources to address the mental and physical health of its oldest citizens.

The field of eldercare has long known the benefits of integrating the arts into daily routines. **The arts help older adults attain physical, mental, and social wellbeing. The arts stimulate new creative muscles and encourage community engagement.**

PERCENT OF POPULATION AGE 65 AND ABOVE (2020)



In 2010, 12.3% of Washington state residents were 65 or older. In 2022, this increased to 17.1%. Source: Washington Office of Financial Management.

What does this fund?

ArtsWA will use these monies to:

- **Develop a curriculum** to ensure consistent standards
- **Train a statewide workforce** of highly skilled Teaching Artists

ArtsWA and its partners at SilverKite will train at least 40 Teaching Artists each year to deliver creative aging programming.

This Teaching Artist workforce will expand the capacity of facilities to provide therapeutic arts programming for older adults, especially those living in rural communities.

The investment

As Washington's population ages, the state needs a skilled workforce to ensure the wellbeing of our eldest citizens.

Funding will ensure that **Washington State's elders have access to therapeutic benefits of the arts, creativity, and community.**



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¹ Washington Office of Financial Management.