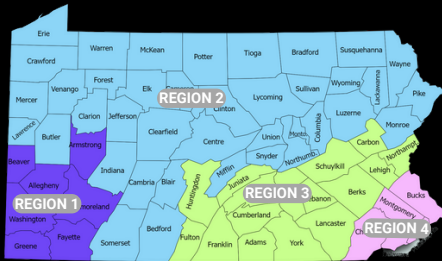


INCREASE FUNDING FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES



CURRENT FUNDING/HOUR

PERSONAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES-FEE FOR SERVICE (FFS)



Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4
\$19.32	\$21.48	\$20.20	\$21.52

PEDIATRIC SHIFT NURSING FFS

Shift Nursing Blended Rate (LPN/RN)	\$50.00
Pediatric Home Health Aide Services	\$27.36

ADULT SHIFT NURSING FFS

Registered Nurse	\$66.20
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	\$44.08

BACKGROUND

Demand for in-home personal assistance services and nursing have increased dramatically in recent years. Older adults, adults with disabilities, and children with medically complex needs are best served when they are cared for at home. It is where they want to be, where their families need them to be, and where they experience better health outcomes. At a time when the state has limited budget funds, home-based care offers a cost-effective, more desirable alternative to costly institutional care.

Nearly 75% of Pennsylvanians receiving Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports receive Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), with only 25% in nursing facilities. Institutional settings received significant funding increases in recent years, leaving home-based care underfunded and unable to compete for workers, while demand continues to grow.

UNDERFUNDING HOME CARE:

- Home-based care funding has not kept pace with providers' cost of care.
- For PAS providers, small (2%) increases in 2014 and 2020, and an 8% (ARPA) increase in 2022 paled in comparison to inflation in the last 10 years, which exceeded 32%.
- Increases in funding and one-time infusions of hundreds of millions of dollars to facility-based providers have created an unlevel playing field, leaving home-based care providers unable to compete for workers.
- 100% of home care providers report job vacancies (some in the hundreds), with virtually all reporting that they have to turn away cases as a result of staffing shortages.
- When hospitals can't discharge to home care and individuals in need of care can't find home caregivers, they are forced into more costly, less desired institutional settings, often with negative outcomes.
- Medicaid providers cannot pass increased costs on to Medicaid beneficiaries and cannot afford to continue operating without adequate funding.

CALL TO ACTION

Support a 10% increase to the "Medical Assistance – Community Health Choices" and "Medical Assistance – Fee for Service" line items to increase funding for personal assistance services and pediatric home-based care services.

Support moving to a blended rate for Adult Shift Nursing that reimburses at \$55/hour, creating parity with the pediatric shift nursing rate.

Without these increases, home-based care providers cannot continue to provide quality care to seniors, adults with disabilities, and children with medically-complex needs. Relegating seniors and others in need of home care care to more costly, less desired institutional settings is bad for them, their families, and the Commonwealth.

This is not a question of IF Pennsylvania will pay for these individuals to receive care, but WHEN and HOW MUCH the Commonwealth will pay. Use Pennsylvania's Medicaid funds to support people where they want to be!