



April 14, 2020

Kevin Hancock

Deputy Secretary

Department of Human Services

Office of Long-Term Living

555 Walnut Street, Forum Place 6th Floor | Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Emergency Rate Relief Requested for COVID-19

Dear Deputy Secretary Hancock:

### **COVID-19 Rates Request**

Pennsylvania Personal Assistance Service provider agencies have worked to ensure that Pennsylvanians with physical disabilities and older Pennsylvanians continue to receive supports in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Personal Assistance Services (PAS, billing code W1793) are in-home and in-community services, costing one-half to one-third that of nursing home placement. Many Pennsylvanians prefer to age in place, experiencing a higher quality of life in their own homes and in their own communities, rather than having no choice but an institution for their care.

### **Where Are We Today**

- The current average blended rate for W1793 is \$19.48, well below the cost of providing the service under normal circumstances outside of the additional costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **COVID-19 Cost**

A survey of Pennsylvania Provider Coalition Association and Pennsylvania Homecare Association direct service providers reveals that 100% of respondents having increased costs and difficulties in hiring direct care workers due to the current PA Personal Assistance Services rates and COVID-19 pandemic, with 100% of the respondents reporting significant losses due to COVID-19 direct expenses.

## **Conclusion**

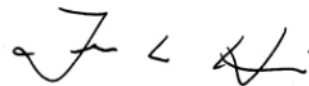
- The increased costs to providers due to COVID-19 is 13.50%.
- Increased COVID-19 costs are captured from PA PCA and PHA members in the data analytics and Cost Estimate Explanation attached.
- We are asking for appropriate funding. This is critical so that we can continue to keep individuals safe in their homes and communities.

Thank you, and please contact us if you have any questions or if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,



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