

Personal Assistance Services Keep People at Home

ISSUE

Under the current Medicaid Home and Community-Based waivers, more than 67,000 seniors and adults with disabilities receive personal assistance services (PAS) at home.

Current Medicaid reimbursement for homecare agencies ranges from \$17.52 to \$19.52 per hour depending on the geographic location of the agency and does not cover the actual cost of delivering that care. Depending on

the size of the agency, technology costs, workers' pay rates and insurance costs, agencies lose between \$1-4 each hour.

As the state moves toward managed long-term services and supports starting in southwest Pennsylvania next year, the goal will be to keep people at home and out of nursing homes. To accomplish this goal, **homecare agencies MUST receive adequate reimbursement.**



ACTION

\$20.58
New Statewide PAS Rate

Homecare professionals who bring care home to thousands of Pennsylvanians each day are asking you to support a 10% Medicaid rate increase for personal assistance services and to standardize the PAS rate across all regions of the state.

Even with this 10% rate increase, serving people in their homes is still half the cost of paying for one person in a nursing home. In 2015, personal assistance services (PAS) delivered by homecare agencies under the Medicaid waivers cost the state approximately \$503 million, compared to the \$3.9 billion spent on nursing home services. Write to your Appropriations Committee Chair (*see letter on reverse side*) to show your support!



SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Chairman _____,

Under the current Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers, more than 67,000 seniors and adults with disabilities receive personal assistance services at home each year. These services are provided by homecare agencies or by an individual hired directly by the consumer.

As the state moves toward managed long-term services and supports, the goal will be to keep people at home and out of nursing homes in order to keep costs down. Current Medicaid reimbursement for homecare agencies ranges from \$17.52 to \$19.52 per hour, depending on the geographic location of the agency. These rates do not cover the actual cost of providing care. In fact, on average agencies lose between \$1-4 each hour depending on their size, technology costs, workers' comp rates and more - and that is just paying their workers \$10 per hour! Agencies want to increase pay, as well as benefits for their employees, but with the inadequate rates, this is impossible.

Please support a 10% increase for all HCBS waivers under the Office of Long-Term Living. Ensure that direct care workers have livable wages and that seniors and adults with disabilities have these workers to help them stay at home. Establish a \$20.58 per hour statewide rate now. With a statewide rate, we will not only achieve the goal of Community HealthChoices, we will also save state dollars and keep people at home, where they want to be.

Sincerely,