



*Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on
Aging Representing:
Agency on Aging of South Central CT
North Central Area Agency on Aging
Western CT Area Agency on Aging
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging Eastern CT
Southwestern CT Agency on Aging*

Support for Fair and Equitable Reimbursement of Community-Based Services

C4A appreciates the demands imposed on the State's budget as a result of the slow growing economy. For seven years, the homecare provider network has managed to do more with less in recognition of the State's fiscal challenges. Today, we reach a tipping point where a failure to respond to the request for equitable, fair reimbursement will have a negative affect on care of frail, vulnerable seniors and the capacity of the provider network. As members of the General Assembly consider programs and budgetary decisions to address the needs of our most older citizens, we urge you to be mindful that many providers have gone *seven* years without any increase in reimbursement rates or cost of living adjustment while facing significant increases in rent, utilities and insurance expenditures. The Provider community stands in support of the Governor's initiative to rebalance Medicaid spending. We understand how critical the initiative is to Connecticut's future. Now, we must ask that the Connecticut Legislature support the full cost of doing business through a much-needed analysis and corresponding increase to the reimbursement rate of Medicaid providers. Failure to do so will result in additional unemployed residents as Agency's buckle under the weight of growing expenses and flat revenue. The State's Money Follows the Person initiative puts stress on an already burdened long term care system. In concept, transitioning individuals from Nursing Facility to the community is commendable; however, the consumers served in this program often have very complex medical, social and behavioral needs. A strong provider network is essential to the Program's success. The Medicaid rates are the prevailing rates in many State programs including the Alzheimer's Respite Program and the National Family Caregiver Support Program. This trend will limit the care plan options for older adults and jeopardize the quality of care for Connecticut's most vulnerable citizens. To insure an adequate community-based network of long term services and supports the State needs to adequately reimburse providers. Short-term gains reaped from inadequate reimbursement will soon give way to long term loss as clients experience higher hospital recidivism rates, increased emergency department use and declining health outcomes.

Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities

Information provided by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, CT Chapter

The Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities (CHCPAD) is a pilot program that provides home-based services to people age 18–64 with degenerative neurological conditions who are at risk of being institutionalized in nursing homes. CHCPAD serves 50 individuals throughout the state including those with multiple sclerosis, ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's diseases.

CHCPAD has a waiting list of 103 people and the approximate wait time from application to enrollment is 3 years.

Cost Savings for the State of Connecticut

Connecticut Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities: \$720,000 in the state budget.

The average yearly cost of home care for individuals on the program is \$16,000 compared to a cost of \$72,000 per year if the individual were to be on Medicaid and living in a nursing home. SAVINGS: \$56,000 per person per year for a total of over \$2.8 million annually.

Benefits to Families and the Community

- Keeps younger adults in their homes and out of nursing homes
- Approximately 13% of Connecticut nursing home residents are younger than age 65
- Creates jobs in the health and home care service fields
- Increases income tax revenue through new jobs
- Allows family caregivers to maintain their employment, pay taxes and stay afloat financially
- Keeps families together

Current Action Needed

Support a minimum 100 additional slots to expand the CT Home Care Program for Adults with Disabilities.

For further information on programs and services offered through the Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging:

Contact: Marie Allen, Executive Director
Telephone: 203-333-9288
Email: mallen@swcaa.org
Web site: www.ctagenciesonaging.org