

THE HOME CARE INDUSTRY DESERVES ADEQUATE REIMBURSEMENT LEVELS THAT ADDRESS MINIMUM WAGE

Home & Community Based Services:

- Provide an important lifeline and the most cost-effective option for Missouri seniors and disabled (FY21 projected costs – HCBS = \$11,915; Nursing Home = \$42,254).
- Are critical to the provision of care to the thousands of elders and individuals with disabilities that want to remain in the community and their homes.
- Remains one of the most vital services available to combat the spread of COVID-19.
- **Will NOT benefit from Medicaid expansion** (see attached for details).
- Is facing unsustainable challenges without enhanced reimbursement to address minimum wage increases.

Home Care Workers:

- Care for our loved ones, elders, people with disabilities, and allow the rest of us to go to work and have the peace of mind that our loved ones are well cared for.
- See those receiving care in a most vulnerable state but provide them the opportunity to maintain their dignity and independence by receiving care in their home.
- Provide valuable services that help avoid and/or reduce rehospitalizations, saving the state dollars.
- Are susceptible to both a physical and emotional toll often resulting in seeking out similar, if not increased pay in another line of work.
 - *High wages offered by Wal-Mart (\$14.76), Target (\$13.00), Amazon (\$15.00) and McDonald's (\$13.00) are drawing qualified health care workers out of the industry.*
- **From the onset of the coronavirus outbreak, were on the frontlines providing care in people's homes, not only the safest and most cost-effective location, but their preferred setting!**

THE HOME CARE INDUSTRY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

- Home care rates paid to agencies have been historically low, stagnant or have been consistently reduced or withheld resulting in rates below the actual cost of providing care. **Home care providers are currently operating at FY2017 reimbursement rates.**
- **Home care agencies have solely bore the cost of the minimum wage increases for the last three years.**
 - *The responsibility for adapting to the new policy should not fall entirely on individual home care agencies. The state must take the lead in determining how workers can be fully compensated without compromising care.*
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects to [add more than 1.2 million home health aide and personal care aide jobs](#) from 2016 to 2026 (a 41% growth rate, far more than any other industry or sector).
 - *Agencies must be able to provide their workforce with a competitive, living wage to draw new individuals into the field and retain those who hold these important jobs.*
 - *Home care workers should be compensated in a manner that reflects the valuable service they provide to their patients. Inadequate compensation should never serve as a disincentive pushing prospective workers away from this field.*
- Rates for Medicaid personal care services must cover wage costs, training and supervision of staff, administrative functions for scheduling, billing, and more along with the employer tax share of Social Security, Workers Compensation, and Unemployment Compensation.
 - *Providers continue to bear the cost of overtime pay, travel time between clients and other unfunded mandates such as Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) along with the unknown impact resulting from the new Level of Care determination tool. **With no relief for minimum wage, the math no longer works!***

To stabilize and sustain Home & Community Based Services, PLEASE acknowledge, through higher reimbursement rates, the cost drivers that impact HCBS home care providers.

Investing in HCBS providers will allow them to continue to work and provide care in Missouri's communities, not only today but in the future. More than ever the time to act is now and to INVEST IN HOME CARE!

Medicaid Expansion WILL NOT Benefit Home & Community Based Providers

Additional funding is necessary to sustain and protect HCBS services. HCBS providers **WILL NOT** see an opportunity for an increase in providing services to the expanded population.

MO Expansion Population Details Related to HCBS:

Participants are not eligible for Expansion if they have Medicare.

- Expansion coverage will not include CDS or waivers services – only state plan agency model.
- **The only group that would benefit from switching to expansion managed care plan would be those that have state plan agency model only and a spenddown.**
 - A very small percentage of HCBS population is authorized for only state plan agency model and do not have Medicare (around 4,700)
 - For those individuals, an even smaller number have a spenddown. No Medicare (of any kind) and has spenddown = 87 participants