

CAHCF

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities



Connecticut Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers Need Your Help

Medicaid Funding is the Lifeline to Quality Care for Nursing Facility Residents

Please help your local skilled nursing facility and rehabilitation center provide the high quality care we all want for our aging seniors. Please let your Appropriations Committee leaders and members know that help is needed:

- **FLAT FUNDING.** Medicaid payments for Skilled Nursing Facilities have been almost completely flat since 2007 while inflationary increases amounting to hundreds of millions have been eliminated in the budget over the last decade.
- **COSTS RISING.** The cost of providing high quality skilled nursing facility care in almost all areas is rising dramatically. Caregivers are losing ground every year while Medicaid funding is stagnant.
- **THE CARE IS MORE COMPLEX.** With more and more residents with lower care needs appropriately receiving care in home and community based settings, our skilled nursing facilities are now providing services to residents with the highest level of care needs and those challenged by dementia or Alzheimer's disease.
- **MEDICAID AND EMPLOYEES.** Skilled Nursing Facilities have given raises and entered into collective bargaining agreements in the past when Medicaid funding has been available for all skilled nursing facilities.
- **MEDICAID FUNDING SHORTFALL.** Connecticut Medicaid currently underfunds the cost of providing care by an average of \$ 28.68 per patient day while approximately 70% of residents are paid for through Medicaid---over 90% in many urban facilities.

(OVER)

- **LOWEST COST PER HOUR.** On an hourly basis, comprehensive skilled nursing care including all costs (nursing care, housing, dietary, personal needs, etc) is less than \$ 10.00 per hour.
- **PROVIDER TAXES.** Skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers pay provider taxes to the Department of Revenue Services totaling \$ 153.3 million annually that reduces the State expenditure and revenue gap. Revenues to the State of Connecticut from these provider taxes effectively cover the State's 50% share of \$ 306.6 million of Medicaid nursing facility costs. Skilled nursing and rehabilitation centers are paying for a measured portion of their rates through the quarterly provider taxes that these facilities pay.
- **LONG-TERM CARE REBALANCING.** Connecticut can accelerate its policy goal to serve more individuals in home and community based settings by adopting a responsible nursing home voluntary bed reduction policy (S.B. 899).
- **NURSING HOMES ARE NOT THE PROBLEM.** Medicaid spending for nursing facility services have been steadily declining---in fact, spending for long-term services and supports declined in 2014 for the first time since the state began tracking the data.

The conclusion is that our skilled nursing centers need your help. Please speak up and urge your Appropriations Committee members to protect Medicaid funding for your local skilled nursing facility.

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