

CAHCF/CCAL

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities
Connecticut Center for Assisted Living



Connecticut Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Centers Need Your Help in 2019

Medicaid Funding is a Primary Lifeline to Quality Care for Nursing Facility Residents

CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATORS: Please help your local skilled nursing facility and rehabilitation center provide the high quality care we all want for our aging seniors.

- **TWELVE YEARS OF FLAT MEDICAID FUNDING IS ENOUGH!** 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 Connecticut state budget over the last decade.
- **SUPPORT A FOUR PERCENT (4%) GENERAL MEDICAID RATE INCREASE FOR NURSING HOMES.** A long overdue increase in Medicaid rates is essential in 2019 to address the cumulative impact of chronic underfunding and to address the nursing home staffing issues and minimum wage pressure now being experienced.
- **COSTS RISING.** The cost of providing high quality skilled nursing facility care in almost all areas is rising dramatically. Operators are losing ground every year while Medicaid funding is stagnant.
- **NURSING HOME STAFFING IS A MAJOR CONCERN IN 2019.** With unprecedented low unemployment, the recruitment and retention of nursing home staff is nearing a crisis in Connecticut.
- **INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON NURSING HOMES.** Significant Medicaid resources will be needed to comply with new requirements and upward wage pressure as seventy percent (70%) of nursing home residents rely on Medicaid.

- **NURSING HOME RESIDENT 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. Residents with a substance use disorder in addition to the typical skilled nursing resident needs are presenting additional unfunded challenges in 2019.
- **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. However, state funding for facility operations, equipment and physical plant has been neglected for over a decade.
- **MEDICAID FUNDING SHORTFALL.** Connecticut Medicaid currently underfunds the cost of providing care by more than \$34 per patient day. The average Medicaid census in nursing homes is approximately 70% of its residents, and this can be well over 90% in many urban facilities.
- **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 totaling over \$ 150 million annually. These revenues significantly increase the federal Medicaid matching revenue for Connecticut receives which supports increased Connecticut General Fund expenditures in the state budget.
- **LONG-TERM CARE REBALANCING.** Connecticut can save Medicaid dollars and accelerate its policy goal to serve more individuals in home and community based settings by adopting a responsible nursing home voluntary bed reduction policy, and implementing cost effective policies to repurpose and diversify the nursing home care model.

The real answer is your help is needed to increase Medicaid funding for your local skilled nursing facility.

For additional information, please contact **Matthew V. Barrett, President and Chief Executive Officer** at:

Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities / Connecticut Center for Assisted Living
213 Court Street Suite 202
Middletown, CT 06457

860-290-9424 (tel); mbarrett@cahcf.org (email)