

AGING & LONG-TERM SUPPORT ADMIN 1115 Statewide Medicaid Waiver



2016 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$0

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA) requests federal appropriation authority (\$0 GF-State) to implement a demonstration waiver to target services to eligible individuals who choose to receive supports for their unpaid caregiver that will help them remain in their own homes as an alternative to nursing home or home and community based services funded through existing Medicaid authorities. The state will also offer a limited benefit package to individuals “at risk” of spending down to Medicaid eligibility. These demonstrations address the unprecedented aging of the state’s population and divert or delay individuals from more costly services.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The number of individuals ages 65 and older is growing. There is a direct correlation between age and the need for support with daily living activities. Unpaid caregivers provide over 80 percent of these daily services; however, stress and burnout lead to out-of-home placements and risk of abuse and neglect. The majority of Washingtonians are not insured for long-term services and supports (LTSS), have no affordable options for coverage, and no practical way to prepare except the path to impoverishment and reliance on Medicaid. Washington needs new solutions to address increased demand while also ensuring access to more intensive Medicaid funded LTSS for those who need it.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act provides the federal government authority to approve experimental, pilot or demonstration projects, including expenditure authority for designing and implementing improved Medicaid programs including changes in eligibility, benefits, cost sharing and provider payments. It can also include services for people not typically covered by Medicaid. Washington is seeking approval from CMS for an 1115 demonstration waiver to leverage savings achieved from past rebalancing efforts.

The funding will be used to implement services designed to avoid or delay the need for more intensive Medicaid funded LTSS by providing a menu of services similar to the AL TSA’s Family Caregiver Support Program and the Senior Citizens Services Act. Services will include needs assessments, options counseling, caregiver assistance services, training and education, equipment and supplies, health maintenance and therapies.

EXPECTED RESULTS



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

The 5-year demonstration is designed to test whether the delay or diversion from intensive long-term services is significant enough to support its continued funding post-waiver. The waiver does not commit additional state resources in the short or long-term.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

The draft waiver application has been vetted through two 30-day public comment periods, public forums and a number of individual meetings with interested stakeholders. Tribes have also been engaged and are interested in ensuring access and cultural competence to their tribal members. Interested stakeholders include the Area Agencies on Aging, Elder Care Alliance, Senior Lobby, State Council on Aging, Lifespan Respite Alliance, provider associations, labor partners and legal advocates. Advocates are interested in expanding services to unpaid family caregivers and those “at risk” of Medicaid spend-down and understand the need to continue to innovate as the needs of a growing population of older adults result in greater demand for long-term services and supports. They are interested in ensuring that eligible clients are fully informed about the options and choices available as they select and consent how to receive services for which they are eligible.