

AGING & LONG-TERM SUPPORT ADMIN Critical Nursing Services



2016 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	\$0	\$221,000	\$221,000
Total	\$0	\$441,000	\$441,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA) requests \$441,000 (\$221,000 GF-State) to increase the rates for Medicaid service providers whose services are instrumental to keeping people in home and community settings rather than nursing homes. Nurse delegation, skilled nursing services and home delivered meals have not had rate increases for years, and the number of providers willing to contract at the offered rates is not keeping pace with the demand for services, leaving clients without access to these critical services. These proposed nursing rates are consistent with rates paid by the Health Care Authority.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The state is losing the ability to attract and retain contracted providers for skilled nursing services, nurse delegation services (such as insulin injections) and home delivered meals as DSHS reimbursement rates for these services are lower than what the Health Care Authority pays for similar services. Low payment rates have not increased in years and are below rates paid by other Medicaid payers. There are now areas in the state without these services available. This results in clients having to be served in more costly institutional settings or receive services through a provider who does not have clinical expertise and without clinical oversight to ensure safe and appropriate care.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

Increase the rates for these contracted Medicaid providers (consistent with rates paid by the Health Care Authority) in order to maintain access to the vital, low-cost services that help vulnerable people maintain some independence in their own homes rather than be forced to move to a residential or even institutional setting to obtain proper medical care and/or nutrition. The proposed increases are as follows:

- Skilled nursing services rate from \$51.00 to \$54.57 per visit \$ 40,000 total funds
- Nurse delegation rate from \$32.96 to \$34.58 \$330,000 total funds
- Home delivered meal rate from \$6.80 to \$7.17 per meal \$ 71,000 total funds

EXPECTED RESULTS

Eligible clients will be able to access these critical services in the community and therefore will:

- Not go without care or move to a residential/institutional setting.
- Experience an increase in providers of skilled nursing services, nurse delegation, and home delivered meals in underserved areas.
- Have consistent rates for similar services across Medicaid.



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

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

This proposal is expected to have support from Area Agencies on Aging, the Eldercare Alliance and providers of other services. There is no known opposition.