

Increase Home & Community-Based Services & Skilled Nursing Rates

KNOW THE FACTS

- **Rates are at 2008 levels while the actual cost to serve individuals has increased each of the last 12 years.**
- **Home and community-based services are essential to keep individuals with disabilities healthy and in their own homes and communities.**
- **Individuals who are medically fragile do not receive in-home skilled nursing care at the level they need.**
- **Providers, individuals and families are not able to offer Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and nurses a living and competitive wage creating a work force crisis.**

What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate additional State General Funds to increase home and community-based service rates, including skilled nursing rates in Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) services and waivers for people with disabilities.

Why Do This?

The service rates paid to providers, individuals and families are not sufficient to pay staff a living wage. The low pay and often challenging work has resulted in a **severe shortage of DSPs and nurses**. Individuals receiving services are paying the price...

Individuals struggle to find workers and nurses willing to provide the services they need due to these low rates. The lack of adequate nursing care creates an incredible burden on parents and family members to fulfill the medical needs of their loved ones without support and increases the potential for someone having to live in an institution.

By increasing rates, providers, individuals and families will be able to hire and retain a sufficient, skilled workforce capable of meeting the needs of individuals currently receiving home and community-based services. These services are **more cost-effective** than institutional settings and afford individuals with disabilities a **better quality of life** in their own homes to bond with family members resulting in more natural supports.