



Choices for Independence Home Health Services

HOUSE FINANCE, DIVISION III SUBCOMMITTEE

MARCH 10, 2021

GRANITE STATE
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE
ASSOCIATION



Medicaid-waiver Services *Choices for Independence* (CFI)

- ▶ **Medicaid-waiver program for elderly & adult citizens who need nursing home level of care**
 - ▶ Financial eligibility – determined by DHHS
 - ▶ Clinical eligibility – clinical assessment by DHHS RN, eligibility determination by BEAS staff
- ▶ **Clients can live at home with supportive services**
- ▶ **CFI is a good investment! Average annual cost is less than \$20,000/ year, compared to over \$50,000 for nursing home care.**

GRANITE STATE
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE
ASSOCIATION

CFI Budget Lines 05-95-48-482010-2152

HB 0001	02/12/2021	VERSION NO: 01	FISCAL YEAR 2022	FISCAL YEAR 2023
05 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES		(CONT.)		
95 HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS DEPT		(CONT.)		
48 HHS: DLTSS-ELDERLY&ADULT SVCS		(CONT.)		
481010 GRANTS FOR SOCIAL SVC PROG		(CONT.)		
EXPENDITURE TOTAL FOR GRANTS FOR SOCIAL SVC PROG			28,359,125	28,450,704
FEDERAL FUNDS			16,581,476	16,625,159
GENERAL FUND			11,777,649	11,825,545
TOTAL ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR GRANTS FOR SOCIAL SVC PROG			28,359,125	28,450,704
05 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES				
95 HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS DEPT				
48 HHS: DLTSS-ELDERLY&ADULT SVCS				
482010 WAIVER AND NURSING FACILITIES				
2152 WAIVER/NF PMTS-COUNTY PARTI				
041 Audit Fund Set Aside			152,851	152,851
504 Nursing Home Payments		*	221,547,432	221,547,432
505 Mid-Level Care Expenses			11,578,076	11,578,076
506 Home Support Waiver Services			56,288,970	56,288,970
529 Home Health Care Waiver Servic			8,411,292	8,411,292
TOTAL			297,978,621	297,978,621
ESTIMATED SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR WAIVER/NF PMTS-COUNTY PARTI				
005 Private Local Funds			143,912,885	143,912,885
FEDERAL FUNDS			149,065,736	149,065,736
GENERAL FUND			5,000,000	5,000,000
TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS			297,978,621	297,978,621

CLASS NOTES

504 The appropriation in Class 504 shall not lapse, except where noted below, shall not be used for any other purpose, and shall not be considered for budget reductions required pursuant to any section of this act or any other budget reduction, including executive orders, required of the department of health and human services. To the extent that nursing home rates paid to providers in 504-Nursing Home Payments are less than the rates established by the department, prior to applying the budget adjustment factor, any balance remaining, less transfers made into class 504 which shall lapse, shall be paid out to providers as a lump sum payment within 30 days of the year end, proportionally based on Medicaid class 504 payments made to such providers during the fiscal year.

ORGANIZATION NOTES

* Appropriations made under the Choices for Independence Waiver program paid from class 505 mid-level care, class 506 home support services, and class 529 home health care services shall only be transferred in and among such classes, which does not prevent transfers in from other accounts within the department. Payments made from class 505, 506 and 529 shall not be used for any other purpose, and shall not be considered for budget reductions required pursuant to any section of this act or any other budget reduction including executive orders required of the department of health and human services. Such accounts shall not lapse until June 30, 2023.

Home care services are in class lines 506 & 529.

Home Care Services Provided to CFI Clients

▶ **Skilled Nursing Visits (529)**

- ▶ Clinical assessments & care plans
- ▶ Wound care; catheter care
- ▶ Medication administration; filling pill planners
- ▶ Patient and family education
- ▶ LNA Supervision

▶ **Home Health Aide Services (529)**

- ▶ Licensed Nursing Assistants (LNAs)
- ▶ 100 hours of training
- ▶ Observe & report medical conditions
- ▶ Bathing, toileting, dental care
- ▶ Assistance with transfers, dressing, walking, feeding, medications

▶ **Personal Care Services (506)**

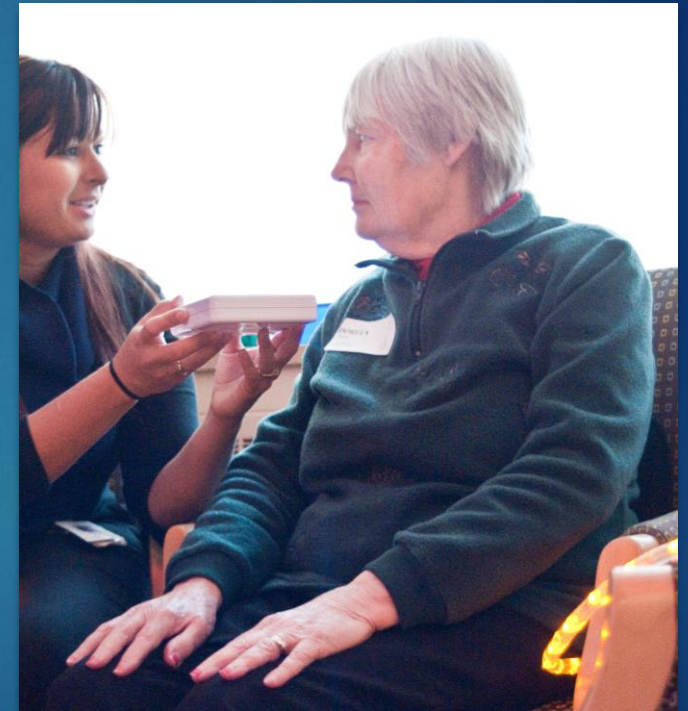
- ▶ Unlicensed Personnel – about 16 hours of training
- ▶ Bathing, toileting, dental care
- ▶ Assistance with transfer, dressing, walking, feeding
- ▶ Assistance with medication reminders
- ▶ Transportation to grocery, pharmacy

▶ **Homemaker Services (526)**

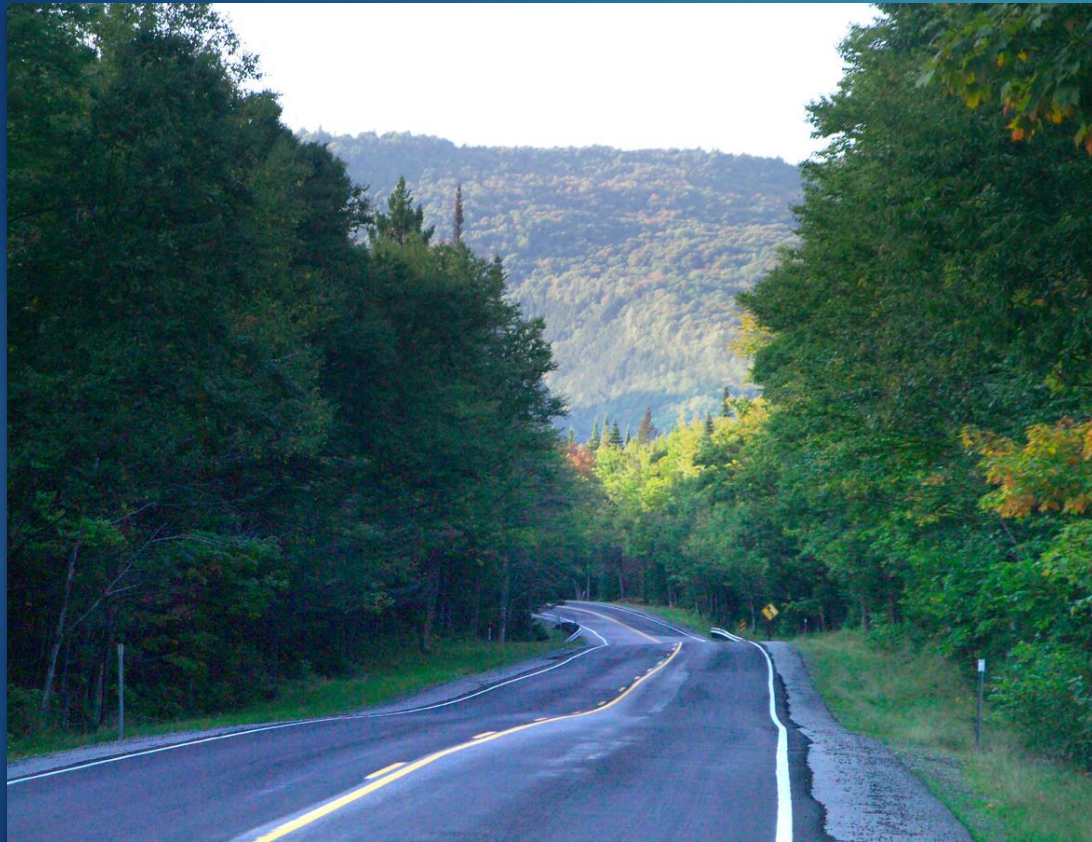
- ▶ Light housekeeping
- ▶ Grocery Shopping
- ▶ Laundry
- ▶ Meal preparation

CFI Challenges: *Growing Caseloads, Gaps in Care*

- ▶ **CFI unduplicated clients**
 - ▶ 2015 2,885
 - ▶ 2020 3,672
- ▶ **Gaps in Care** (undelivered services, 2017-2020 average)
 - ▶ Skilled Nursing Visits 32%
 - ▶ Home Health Aide short visits 45%
 - ▶ Home Health Aide long visits 31%
 - ▶ Personal Care Services 25%
 - ▶ Homemaker Services 45%
- ▶ **Payments to providers are not based on economic realities**



CFI Challenges: *Inadequate Provider Payments*



- ▶ Payments are based on the **time the caregiver is in the home.**
- ▶ It must cover ALL these expenses:
 - ▶ Caregiver and supervisor wages
 - ▶ Mileage and travel time
 - ▶ Workers' comp, payroll taxes, benefits, other insurance
 - ▶ Training, criminal background checks, TB tests, COVID tests,
 - ▶ Scheduling, case management, overtime, billing

CFI Challenges: Rate Disparities

Services	2021 CFI Rates	Gov's Proposed 22-23 Rates	NH Title XX & IIIB Rates	Median NH Private 2020 Pay Rates*	2018 Medicare Cost of Care**
Nursing Visits	\$100.63	\$100.63	NA	NA	\$170.00
Home Health Aide Visits > 2 hours	\$33.03	\$33.03	NA	NA	\$60
Home Health Aide Units & Hourly	\$6.41/\$26.64	\$6.41/\$25.64	\$32/hour	NA	\$60
Personal Care Units & Hourly	\$4.89/\$19.56	\$5.62/\$22.48	NA	\$29.50	NA
Homemaker Units & Hourly	\$5.09/\$20.36	\$5.40/\$21.60	\$24/hour	\$28.50	NA

CFI Challenges: *Workforce Shortages*

STAFF VACANCY RATES

(week of 12/31/20)

▶ Registered Nurses	23%
▶ Licensed Practical Nurses	33%
▶ Home Health Aides	33%
▶ Personal Care Providers	30%
▶ Homemakers	33%

STAFF TURNOVER RATES

(2020 Annual Average)

▶ Registered Nurses	34%
▶ Licensed Practical Nurses	51%
▶ Home Health Aides	36%
▶ Personal Care Providers	41%
▶ Homemakers	23%

Source: Home Care, Hospice & Palliative Care Alliance of NH
Workforce Survey, February 2021, conducted by Helms & Company

Public Policy Issues

- ▶ **CFI enables vulnerable adults to remain in their homes**, for less than the cost of nursing home care.
- ▶ NH is **failing in its commitment to support individuals** on CFI.
- ▶ **Low rates cripple providers**, especially in a competitive workforce environment.
- ▶ Gaps in care result in **dangerous conditions for individuals** who depend on these services and waitlists for people who need help now.
- ▶ There is great **risk that individuals will require hospitalization** or nursing home care **or may die** while they await services.
- ▶ Home care **providers are limiting or ceasing participation** in the CFI program.



Public Policy Issues



- ▶ Between 2017- 2020, **\$11 million - \$15 million a year were unspent** for CFI home health services.
- ▶ Rather than lapsing, budgeted funds should be used to increase rates to market level in order to **stabilize the delivery of CFI services**.
- ▶ The Legislature should **direct DHHS to further increase CFI home health rates** within the proposed appropriation.
- ▶ We recommend that DHHS **consider adopting a footnote**, similar to the nursing home footnote currently in the budget, to pay out unspent funds to CFI providers.
- ▶ The recent federal stimulus bill **includes a 10% FMAP increase for home and community-based services for 4/1/21 – 3/33/22**. The funds must be used to strengthen programs. It cannot supplant existing state funds.

Questions?

- ▶ Gina Balkus, CEO
 - ▶ Granite State Home Health & Hospice Association
 - ▶ gbalkus@homecaresnh.org
 - ▶ 603-225-5597
- ▶ Henry Veilleux, Lobbyist
 - ▶ Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group
 - ▶ hveilleux@sheehan.com
 - ▶ 603-496-1296



GRANITE STATE HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE ASSOCIATION



GRANITE STATE
HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE
ASSOCIATION