



Nurse Aide Training Program Prohibition

Under current federal law, a nursing home automatically loses its ability to provide a nurse aide training program if it is cited for deficiencies during the survey process that result in civil monetary penalties (CMPs) greater than \$10,483. This automatic consequence may bear no relationship to the cited deficiencies. Furthermore, the prohibition is enforced for two years, and it applies to a facility's in-house training program and if the facility serves as a clinical training site. Currently, nearly 40% of all Wisconsin nursing homes are impacted by this prohibition. LeadingAge Wisconsin members are concerned that preventing a nursing home from training staff is a major barrier to improving quality of care, and it only exacerbates the increasing workforce challenges they face.

Request: We urge Congress to support legislation: that repeals the automatic loss of a nursing home's ability to provide nurse aide training; makes the penalty discretionary; and allows a facility to restore its program once the deficiency has been corrected.

Preserve Medicaid Funding for Long-Term Care

Wisconsin has been a national leader in redesigning its Medicaid program (which includes Family Care) for older adults. Our State has rebalanced the degree to which older persons on Medicaid receive home and community-based services versus facility-based care, expanded Family Care to eliminate waiting lists for care and services, and relied on managed care principles to serve individuals in the "right place, at the right time, and at the right cost." LeadingAge Wisconsin members are concerned that changes to the way the Medicaid program is financed will penalize Wisconsin for its past efforts to control Medicaid costs. Furthermore, proposals to restructure Medicaid financing to states come at a time when an increasing number of elderly individuals are reaching the advanced ages at which their long-term services and supports needs will be even greater, and when Wisconsin is facing an unprecedented long-term care workforce crisis.

Request: We urge Congress to support ONLY those fundamental changes to Medicaid's structure and financing that would adequately provide for the essential long-term services and supports necessary to care for Wisconsin's long-term care population.

Support LTSS Financing Reform

Our state and country are experiencing demographic and health shifts that our current long-term services and support (LTSS) system is unprepared to address. The expense of LTSS, whether at home, in assisted living, or in a nursing home is something few families are prepared to handle. LeadingAge Wisconsin members are concerned that an LTSS system that is already plagued with inadequate funding and coordination of services will leave many aging Wisconsinites without the adequate supports they need to access and receive high quality care and services in the future.

Request: We urge Congress to avoid crisis-driven legislation and battles between state and federal investments, and instead seek a collaboration of policymakers, agencies, and stakeholders to work to develop a fairer and more rational financing and service delivery system that meets the needs of our aging population and ensures accessible, affordable, and quality LTSS.