



Protect Access to Home and Community-Based Services

Strengthening Medicaid's Home Care Infrastructure

THE ASK

Congress should support policies that protect and strengthen Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) and ensure that federal and state policy changes do not unintentionally reduce access to home-based care for older adults and people with disabilities.

TOPLINE

- **HCBS allows individuals to receive care in their homes and communities** rather than in institutional settings, supporting independence and quality of life.
- **More than 600,000 Americans** remain on waiting lists for HCBS, often waiting years to receive needed services.¹
- **Home-based care is preferred by patients and families** and helps individuals remain connected to their communities.
- **HCBS is a cost-effective component of Medicaid**, helping prevent more expensive institutional care and hospitalizations.²

RATIONALE

- **Demand for HCBS continues to grow as the U.S.** population ages and more individuals live longer with complex chronic conditions.
- **Workforce shortages and financial pressures** are straining the home care system, making it difficult for providers to meet increasing demand.

- **Policy changes at the federal or state level may unintentionally limit access to care**, particularly if Medicaid funding, eligibility, or provider sustainability are impacted.
- **Current fiscal and policy challenges** are leading to proposals that would reduce HCBS capacity and payment in Medicaid programs around the country.
- **Strong HCBS infrastructure** is essential to ensuring that individuals who need long-term services and supports can receive care in the setting they prefer: home.

BACKGROUND

- **Medicaid is the primary payer** for long-term services and supports in the United States.
- **Services for older adults and individuals with disabilities** represent a significant portion of Medicaid spending, with HCBS serving as a critical alternative to institutional care.
- **Research consistently shows** that home-based care improves patient satisfaction while helping control long-term care costs.
- **Without adequate HCBS capacity**, individuals may face longer wait times, delayed care, deteriorating health, and unnecessary institutionalization.

BOTTOM LINE

Home and Community-Based Services are a critical component of Medicaid's long-term care system.

Congress should work with states, providers, and stakeholders to ensure HCBS programs remain strong, sustainable, and accessible for the millions of Americans who depend on care at home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
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1. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/a-look-at-waiting-lists-for-medicaid-home-and-community-based-services-from-2016-to-2025/>
2. <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/long-term-services-supports/downloads/mfp-rtc.pdf>