



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

## **Fast Facts:** 2011 Legislative Session

### **Changes for continuing care programs**

The 2011 Legislature made a number of changes to maintain more home and community-based services for people with disabilities and the elderly by reducing costs for those services. Reforms also were introduced to sustain these services for the future. These are key changes.

#### **Medical Assistance reform waiver**

- With approval from the federal government, projects will be created to reform Medical Assistance to achieve better outcomes for people with disabilities, seniors and other enrollees. Desired outcomes include greater community integration and independence, improved health, reduced reliance on institutional care, attainment of employment and housing and long-term sustainability of needed services.

#### **Provider rates and grants**

Effective Sept. 1, 2011:

- Rates for many providers are reduced 1.5 percent for the 2012-13 biennium. This will change to a 1 percent rate reduction in the 2014-15 biennium. The rate reduction applies to all long-term care providers except nursing facilities and some customized and congregate living services.
- Aging and Adult Services grants, consumer and family support grants and other disability grants are also subject to the 1.5 percent rate decrease in the current biennium and a 1 percent rate decrease in 2014-15.
- Rates for lower-needs individuals on the Developmental Disabilities Waiver and the Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals Waiver living in corporate foster care settings are reduced by 10 percent.
- Component rates for individuals on the Elderly Waiver in customized living settings are reduced by 5 percent.
- Day training and habilitation rates are reduced by 1 percent beginning in fiscal year 2012.

#### **Managing growth in disability waivers**

- The Developmental Disabilities Waiver will be limited to six allocations per month through the 2012-13 biennium and 15 allocations per month during the following biennium.
- The Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals Waiver will be limited to 60 new allocations per month during the 2012-13 biennium and 85 new allocations during the following biennium.
- Priorities for allocation of funds must be individuals anticipated to be discharged from institutional settings or at risk of placement in institutional settings.

#### **Nursing facility rebasing**

- Future steps in phasing in a cost-based formula for nursing facility reimbursement are canceled to save the state money in future years.

#### **Reduced PCA rate for relatives providing care**

- Payments to personal care assistants who provide Medical Assistance-funded care to a relative are reduced by 20 percent.

## **Managing the Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care program**

- Legislation changes certain need thresholds and reduces budgets for low-need individuals on the Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care programs to better focus services on those in greatest need.

## **Long Term Care Consultation expansion**

- People interested in entering a registered housing with services setting, such as assisted living, must now be offered a long-term care consultation before signing a lease.
- These individuals can opt for a simplified consultation through the Senior LinkAge Line® or a full consultation used for people seeking help with long-term care decisions. Individuals can continue to choose their service provider.

## **Nursing home level of care criteria/Contingent rate reduction**

- DHS will apply for a federal waiver to implement new nursing facility level of care criteria on July 1, 2012, which is 18 months earlier than scheduled.
- The change directs people with lower care needs to other supports while ensuring nursing home care or community alternatives for people with the greatest needs.
- If the waiver is not granted, an additional 1.67 percent rate cut for long-term care providers (except nursing facilities) will be imposed from July 1, 2012, to Dec. 31, 2013. The rate reduction would be required to make up for lost savings from not implementing the initiative.

## **Related information:**

- DHS end-of-session fact sheets, [http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/id\\_000101](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/id_000101)
- Continuing Care Administration 2010 legislative session summary, <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-6417-ENG>
- DHS fact sheets:
  - Community Alternative Care Waiver, <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-5711-ENG>
  - Community Alternatives for Disabled Individuals Waiver, <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-5712-ENG>
  - Developmental Disabilities Waiver, <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-5713-ENG>
  - Elderly Waiver, <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfservlet/Public/DHS-5357-ENG>

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