



# Save Community First Choice!

## What is Community First Choice?

Community First Choice (CFC) is a part of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It's our most cost effective, flexible and accessible source of funding to help people seniors and people with disabilities of all ages live in the community.

CFC has been a lifeline for many people with IDD who are using CFC to get off DDS waiting lists and to start building stable, rich and productive lives in the community.

Services funded include: Personal Care Attendants, Transitional Services, Home-delivered meals, Environmental Accessibility Adaptations, Assistive Technology, Acquisition, maintenance and enhancement of skills necessary for the individual to accomplish ADLs, IADLs and health-related tasks, Backup systems, Training.

## CFC is Cost Effective

- CFC receives an enhanced Medicaid match of 56% versus the standard 50%.
- CFC costs approximately half of home health care, a required Medicaid service. It is also significantly less costly than institutions, nursing homes, and DDS Medicaid waiver services.
- CFC helps seniors and people with disabilities reduce their dependency on government support and avoid institutional care.
- CFC ensures maximum funds go to actual care with minimal administrative and third-party fees by requiring people to self-direct.

## CFC Keeps People with Disabilities & Seniors in Their Communities

- 4100 seniors and people with disabilities have applied for CFC.
- 1002 are currently using CFC.
- More than 130 Money Follows the Person (MFP) recipients have used CFC to leave nursing homes and live in the community.

## Eliminating CFC Will Cost Us More

**In addition to the cruelty of forcing people with applications pending, who have finally received a ray of hope, back on to endless waiting lists, eliminating CFC will cost the state more money.**

- People using CFC will be forced to utilize higher cost Medicaid services.
  - Some on CFC will choose to jeopardize their personal health by living in the community without the basic support they need. In these cases, Connecticut can expect *increased Emergency Room visits, hospitalization, and short-term rehab—which will cost the State much, much more than CFC.*
  - Some will be forced into institutions and nursing homes *costing approximately three times as much* for elders and people with disabilities.
  - Some on CFC will be forced to increase utilization of agency based home health care which *cost approximately twice as much per hour* than CFC personal care services.

- Connecticut's progress in Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS) Rebalancing will be damaged, risking millions in state savings from unnecessary institutionalizations. According to the Institute for 21st Century report, Connecticut can save \$657 million by rebalancing our long-term care system.

## **CFC Has Broad Support**

Recently representatives from 43 organizations and a wide variety of constituencies including IDD, seniors, autism, traumatic brain injury, disability rights, legal rights, providers and labor sent a letter to Governor Malloy asking him to reconsider his proposal to eliminate CFC.

<i>The Arc Connecticut</i>	<i>AARP</i>	<i>SEIU, 1199 NE</i>
<i>The Alliance: The Voice of Community Nonprofits</i>	<i>Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut</i>	<i>Autism Speaks</i>
<i>Brain Injury Alliance of CT</i>	<i>CT Legal Services</i>	<i>National Multiple Sclerosis Society</i>
<i>CT Legal Rights Project</i>	<i>Autism Services and Resources Connecticut</i>	<i>CT Council on Developmental Disabilities</i>
<i>Greater Hartford Legal Aid</i>	<i>New Haven Legal Assistance</i>	<i>Feinstein Education Law Group</i>
<i>CT State Independent Living Council</i>	<i>CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance</i>	<i>CT Down Syndrome Congress</i>
<i>Arc Quinebaug Valley</i>	<i>Arc of Farmington Valley</i>	<i>Arc of Meriden Wallingford</i>
<i>Family Empowerment Task Force</i>	<i>Arc of Greater New Haven</i>	<i>Marc Community Resources</i>
<i>Futures, Inc.</i>	<i>Sarah, Inc.</i>	<i>CT Family Support Network</i>
<i>Stamford Education 4 Autism</i>	<i>West Hartford Public Schools</i>	<i>Community Navigators</i>
<i>Friends of Autistic People</i>	<i>Community Navigators</i>	<i>Norwalk Senior Center South</i>
<i>Communitas, Inc.</i>	<i>Franciscan Home &amp; Hospice Care</i>	<i>CT Autism Action Coalition</i>
<i>Arc New London County</i>	<i>Our Families Can't Wait/SEIU</i>	<i>Center for Serenity</i>
<i>Autism Double Checked</i>	<i>Independence Northwest</i>	<i>West Haven Interagency Network for Children</i>
<i>Community Residences, Inc.</i>		

## **Community First Choice is the Right Choice for Connecticut!**

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