Act Now to Ensure that a Personal Care Rate Increase is Included in the Budget!

Governor Evers’ proposed 2019-21 state budget increases the Medicaid personal care rate by 1.5% per year. This increases the rate to $16.98 on or after January 1, 2020 and to $17.24 on or after July 1, 2020.

It is critical that we let state legislators know that while Governor Evers’ proposed increase is an important acknowledgement of the workforce crisis, **an 11% increase is needed to prevent the collapse of Wisconsin’s community-based direct care provider network.** Increased funding will help us attract and retain a quality workforce, which is essential to our long-term care system’s success.

**WPSA Needs Your Help!**

1. Contact your state senator and state representative today and ask them to increase the personal care rate by 11% in the state budget.
2. Attend a public hearing on the state budget. (hearing schedule is on the next page)

**Here are some things you can say:**

- An 11% increase to the current Medicaid Personal Care (MAPC) Rate is needed to prevent the collapse of Wisconsin’s community-based provider network.

- Personal care rates have been underfunded for decades. The result is a workforce shortage so severe that it is jeopardizing the health, safety and welfare of older adults and people with disabilities.

- One out of two personal care agencies surveyed by WPSA in June 2018 said they are considering no longer providing Medicaid personal care services.

- Personal care workers make it possible for people with disabilities and older adults to live in the community. If the crisis continues, people may have no choice but to relocate to nursing homes or institutions, which cost taxpayers more.

- PROVIDE ANY PERSONAL STORIES OR EXAMPLES FROM YOUR AGENCY OR CLIENTS!
How to Contact Your Legislators:

The first step in contacting your legislator is knowing who your legislator is. The easiest way to do this is the tool found on the Legislature’s home page, at http://legis.wisconsin.gov. In the right-hand side of that page is a link that says Find My Legislators! Type your address in the box below that link to get the names of your state representative and senator.

· Phone. You may leave a message for your legislator’s Capitol office or indicate your position on legislation through the toll free Legislative Hotline, at 1-800-362-9472.

· E-mail. The e-mail addresses of members of the Wisconsin Legislature all have the same format. For members of the Assembly, the form is Rep.Jones@legis.wisconsin.gov; for members of the Senate, the form is Sen.Adams@legis.wisconsin.gov.

Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing Schedule

Friday, April 5, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Pontiac Convention Center
2809 North Pontiac Drive
Janesville, WI 53545

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
Oak Creek Community Center
8580 South Howell Avenue
Oak Creek, WI 53154

Monday, April 15, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
University of Wisconsin – River Falls
University Center – Riverview Ballroom #260
500 Wild Rose Avenue
River Falls, WI 54022

Wednesday, April 24, 2019 (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
University Union - Phoenix Rooms
2430 Campus Court
Green Bay, WI 54311