

CHOICE Home Health Care Funding Needs Your Help!

CHOICE is Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled. The CHOICE home care program has served tens of thousands of Hoosiers and their family caregivers since its passage by the 1987 General Assembly. On countless occasions, CHOICE has been a godsend to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. It allows people who require just a few hours of care each day to remain in their homes with part time assistance, rather than being forced prematurely into round the clock nursing facilities.

In 2010 and 2011 we helped to get the State to maintain full funding for the CHOICE program. However, in 2011 Governor Daniels ordered that all state agencies return 15% of their budgets to the State. This order cut funds to the CHOICE program by \$7.3 million and is an outrage, considering the Indiana General Assembly enacted legislation that does not allow money allocated to CHOICE to be used for anything else.

CHOICE is more cost-effective than other types of long-term care!

- Nursing facilities: the average yearly cost of nursing home care paid for through Medicaid is \$43,752 per person. The state pays **\$14,876** and the federal government pays \$28,876.
- A & D Waivers: the average yearly cost per Medicaid enrollee is \$36,504. The state pays **\$12,411** and the federal government pays \$24,093. (A&D Waivers stands for Aged and Disabled. The waiver pays for nursing home qualified persons that choose to live at home or in a residential community if care in those facilities can be obtained at a lower cost.)
- CHOICE: the average yearly cost of services through the CHOICE program is **\$4,000-\$7,000** per person.

In 2012, funding for CHOICE is once again in jeopardy and will hurt Hoosiers in need of services now!

- In the annual CHOICE report, the FSSA claims that the average cost to serve a person on the CHOICE program in 2011 was \$11,114 per person. The report for 2010 stated that number was just \$3,939. The FSSA numbers allege that the cost of CHOICE services increased \$7,000 in just one year!
- These numbers are an attempt to make the cost of CHOICE services appear to be unaffordable. This report will be presented to the Indiana General Assembly this session. Last year, our state legislators rejected FSSA's misleading claims and they must do so once again!

The need for CHOICE is tremendous. According to FSSA, 7,093 people were served last year by the CHOICE program. Another 6,000 people are now on the waiting list for CHOICE services.

People overwhelmingly say they do not want to end up in nursing homes. The CHOICE program helps protect the dignity and independence of our elderly and disabled and saves Indiana money in the long run. Especially in these hard economic times, Indiana cannot afford to reduce its investment in home and community based services like the CHOICE program.

Take Action Now!!!

As a society, we are only as strong as the least among us. CHOICE is the right direction for Indiana. It helps thousands of people stay out of nursing homes and saves Indiana taxpayers significantly. Our elderly and disabled are relying on us to make sure that they can live with dignity in the later years of their lives. We cannot morally or financially afford any cuts to the CHOICE program. Calls are needed NOW!



Call Governor Daniels and your State legislators and urge them to fully fund CHOICE!

The message is simple: "STOP the cuts for the CHOICE Program, and tell the Family and Social Services Administration to stop its attacks, and protect this vital program!"

To look up and/or e-mail your legislators, visit: <http://district.iga.in.gov/DistrictLookup/>

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