



Turning On Citizen Power

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CHOICE Home Health Care Funding Needs Your Help!

CHOICE is Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled. Last year, we helped to get the State to maintain full funding for the CHOICE program. However, now Governor Daniels has cut CHOICE funding by 15%.

The CHOICE home health 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. **Part time care in the home through CHOICE is 1/5 the cost of low end nursing homes and allows our elderly and disabled the dignity of independence.** As a founding member of the Home Health Care Task Force, Citizens Action Coalition has been instrumental in the founding, funding, and ongoing success of the CHOICE program. The people CHOICE serves are often unable to speak for themselves, but their voices and needs must not be ignored.



Cuts to funding for CHOICE will hurt Hoosiers in need of services now!

- The need for CHOICE is tremendous. According to the Governor's administration, 10,700 people are served each year by the CHOICE program. Another 3,000 people are now on the waiting list for CHOICE services.

Cuts are likely to keep people on the waiting list from receiving the services they need now to stay healthy and independent.

Refusing to release CHOICE funding will hurt Indiana taxpayers in the long run because CHOICE is more cost-effective than other types of long-term care!

- To care for a person on **CHOICE** costs Indiana taxpayers **\$439/month** on average.
- To care for a person on **Medicaid waivers** costs Indiana taxpayers **\$1000/month** (\$2700 state and federal combined).
- To care for a person in a **nursing home** costs Indiana taxpayers **\$1,659/month** (\$4,447 state and federal combined.)

People overwhelmingly say they do not want to end up in a nursing home. CHOICE helps protect people's dignity and independence and saves Indiana money in the long run. Even in these hard economic times, Indiana cannot afford to reduce its investment in home and community based services like CHOICE. Indiana spends 98% of its Medicaid long-term care budget for seniors on nursing home care and only 2% on home and community based services.

Take Action!

Call Governor Daniels and urge him to fully fund CHOICE!

CHOICE is a step in the right direction for Indiana. It helps thousands of people stay out of nursing homes and saves Indiana taxpayers significantly. We can not morally or financially afford any cuts to the CHOICE program. Calls are urgently needed NOW! The message is simple: "STOP the cuts for the CHOICE Home Health Care Program. Protect this vital program!"

Governor Mitch Daniels

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Thousands of seniors and persons with disabilities will be forced into institutions if cuts are made to the CHOICE Home Care Program. And taxpayers will pay millions more. The solution is simple and a win-win. Full funding for Choice Home Health Care!