



Action Alert

Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Inc.

Remove the 15% Cost-Sharing Requirement for Participants of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders!

THE MESSAGE: Please call or e-mail the key budget decision-makers who are listed on the next page to urge them to remove the burdensome 15% co-payment that has been imposed on participants of the state-funded tiers of the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE).

WHY SHOULD LEGISLATORS SUPPORT THE ABOVE?

- **Home and community-based care saves money for the State of Connecticut by preventing institutionalization!**

In the CHCPE Annual Report to the Legislature for SFY 2007, the Department of Social Services documented **cost savings to the State in that program year of \$91,510,543**. Breaking out this figure, average CHCPE monthly costs per state-funded client in 2007 were **\$909** per month. By contrast, the average monthly Medicaid nursing home cost of care in 2007 was **\$5,338**. Many older adults cannot bear the additional cost sharing that has been required for people participating in the state-funded portion of the CHCPE. If older adults drop off the program because they cannot afford to participate, they will be at risk for inappropriate and much more costly nursing home placement.

BACKGROUND: The CHCPE is the mainstay of Connecticut's efforts to keep people independent and self-determining in the community, at lower cost than would otherwise be expended in a nursing facility. In the 2009 session, the Legislature imposed new cost sharing requirements on the state-funded clients of the CHCPE. Generally, effective January 1, 2010, except for individuals who reside in an affordable assisted living demonstration projects each participant must make a monthly co-payment equal to 15% of the cost of his or her care plan.

These new cost sharing requirements have influenced several hundred participants to opt out of receiving services under the CHCPE. Older adults who are surviving on fixed income budgets cannot bear additional cost sharing. Already burdened with significant out-of-pocket expenses, including over-the-counter medical supplies, utilities and food, recipients erode what little they have to live on each time a co-payment is made. The Legislature should reaffirm its commitment to protecting this population from cost sharing that inhibits access to services that are desperately needed to remain safe and stable in the community.

Contact information for key budget decision-makers:

Speaker of the House Chris Donovan
(860) 240-8500
1-800-842-1902
Christopher.Donovan@cga.ct.gov

Representative John Geragosian
(860) 240-0394
1-800-842-8267
John.Geragosian@cga.ct.gov

Representative Denise Merrill
(860) 240-8500
1-800-842-8267
Denise.Merrill@cga.ct.gov

President of the Senate Don Williams
860-240-8600, or toll-free
1-800-842-1420
Williams@senatedems.ct.gov

Senator Toni Harp
860-240-0393, or toll-free
1-800-842-1420
Harp@senatedems.ct.gov

Representative Lawrence Cafero
800-842-1423 (within Connecticut)
860-240-8700
Lawrence.Cafero@housegop.ct.gov

Senator John McKinney
(800) 842-1421 or
(860) 240-8805
John.McKinney@cga.ct.gov

Robert Genuario
Secretary of the Office of Policy Management
860-418-6500
Robert.genuario@ct.gov

Governor M. Jodi Rell
Greater Hartford Area: 860-566-4840
Toll Free: 800-406-1527
TDD: 860-524-7397
Governor.Rell@po.state.ct.us