



Pennsylvania Alliance of Retirement Community Residents

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PA Budget Includes Medicaid Increases

On July 11, 2024, the Pennsylvania General Assembly passed, and Governor Shapiro signed a \$47.6 billion budget for the Commonwealth that includes funding for a number of Medicaid programs. The budget represents a 6% increase over the previous year's budget. Programs that support seniors in nursing homes received an appropriation of \$134 million which provides for a 7.04% increase to the base rate paid to providers for services. This represents a significant achievement for Pennsylvania's aging services sector that has been critically underfunded for many years. The urgency of the need for this funding is underscored by nursing facility closures and bed decertifications in recent years due to insufficient reimbursement rates and workforce pressures. The funding will help nursing facilities address new staffing requirements that took effect on July 1, 2024.

The Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) program received a Medicaid rate increase of 8%. LIFE providers have not had any meaningful increases since 2008 and will continue to work with the PA Department of Human Services to establish a more equitable rate-setting process for the program.

Representatives of PARCR assisted LeadingAge PA with their advocacy efforts during this budget cycle, including attending their press conference/rally, meeting with elected officials, and using Voter Voice to send advocacy messages.

Read LeagingAge PA's message on the enacted budget here:

<https://www.leadingagepa.org/>

Information on the enacted budget is available at www.budget.pa.gov.