



Actions Needed Now!!

1. Protect elders' home care services — sustain current year funding for home and community-based programs for seniors.
2. Support new revenue sources and funding strategies to provide home and community based care for Florida's frail elders.
3. Provide funding to serve seniors on the waiting list who are most at risk of more costly institutionalization.
4. Restore the \$2.4 million cut in 2008 to home and community-based programs for seniors.

FLORIDA COUNCIL ON AGING

Committed to serving Florida's diverse aging interests through education, information-sharing and advocacy

With over 4.1 million seniors, including nearly half a million age 85 and older, Florida must provide cost-effective home care alternatives to Medicaid-funded institutional care.

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FPL

Thank You to Florida Power
& Light for your Generous
Commitment in Support of
Quality Living for Florida's Seniors



Home and Community-Based Care Costs Less!

The Average Annual Cost of Community-Based Care Programs is \$4,680 per Person

Community Care for the Elderly

Services provided to assist functionally-impaired older adults to live at home and include personal care (help with bathing, dressing), home repairs, home-delivered meals and medical transportation.

Clients Served: 19,232*

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative

Individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other memory disorders and their families face special challenges that require targeted services such as adult day care, respite for caregiver relief and caregiver training and support.

Clients Served: 2,379*

Home Care for the Elderly

To help Medicaid-eligible seniors with a caregiver to live at home, HCE provides a stipend of \$106 per month to help pay for home care, plus nutritional supplements and incontinence products.

Clients Served: 5,420*

Local Service Programs

These programs target special needs within communities to help elders remain in their own homes. Services include homemaker services, adult day care, meals and health monitoring.

Clients Served: 33,634*

*Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Medicaid Provides Institutional Care at an Average Annual Cost of \$65,251 (\$30,015 state funds)

Florida spends \$110.5 million annually in General Revenue for home and community-based care to frail and/or cognitively impaired, moderate and low-income seniors. General Revenue-funded Programs are the most cost-effective solution to keep these seniors independent in their homes. Tens of thousands of Florida's frail, lower-income seniors are *ineligible* for Medicaid and depend on these programs for help to remain in their homes and delay or avoid altogether the need for more costly care in a nursing home or assisted living facility.

These cost-effective programs* served over 60,000 persons in Fiscal Year 2007-2008:

- Community Care for the Elderly**
- Alzheimer's Disease Initiative**
- Home Care for the Elderly**
- Local Service Programs**

While the state's effort to maximize federal funds under Florida's home and community-based Medicaid Waiver program has been largely successful, many seniors are *ineligible*.

Seniors on Waiting Lists for Services Cost Florida *More Money!*

We know today that over 20,000 seniors are waiting to receive home and community-based care to help them remain at home.

Last year, at least 782 persons waiting for help at home were placed in a nursing home and the state spent \$20 million more dollars as a result and will end up spending a whole lot more! When a senior enters a nursing home, they typically pay for their own care until they run out of money. On average it takes only 100 days for seniors in a nursing home to spend all their money and become eligible for Medicaid.

In addition to being more cost-effective, Florida's General Revenue-funded home and community-based care programs also:

- ✓ Reduce Medicaid long term care costs and reduce growth in Medicaid enrollment
- ✓ Serve as the 1st Responder for Adult Protective Service cases by providing immediate care (mandated by Florida statute)
- ✓ Act as a "bridge" back to independence for seniors discharged from the hospital after serious illness

* Funded under Chapter 2008-152, Laws of Florida, Line items 484, 485 and 494.