

AGING AND LONG TERM SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION



Nursing Home Investigations

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	15.4	15.4	15.4
GF-State	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$7,040,000	\$7,152,000	\$14,192,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA) requests an increased Nursing Home license fee to fund additional staffing for Nursing Facility provider practice investigations. The Nursing Facility unit conducts investigations into complaints that a provider is not providing appropriate care or following state or federal regulations. The unit has not been meeting the federal deadlines for prompt responses to complaints. This will be funded by increasing the Nursing Home annual renewal license fee from the current \$359 per bed to \$575 per bed in Fiscal Year 2016 and \$578 per bed per year in Fiscal Year 2017.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

A nursing facility, or nursing home, provides 24-hour supervised nursing care, personal care, therapy, nutrition management, organized activities, social services, room, board, and laundry. The majority are privately owned businesses. All nursing home staff are required by law (Chapter 74.34 RCW) to report suspected abuse or neglect of a resident. Specially trained RCS employees investigate complaints. If a report is substantiated, DSHS may take enforcement action, ranging from imposing a civil fine to revocation of the license to referral for investigation of criminal charges.

The license fee established in the budget bill currently covers the costs of all annual licensing and oversight activities (including provider practice investigations). The fee also must cover the department's cost of paying providers for the amount of the license fee attributed to Medicaid clients. The fee applied to non-Medicaid contracted beds is not refunded to the providers.

There are currently 12.0 FTE assigned to nursing home provider practice investigations, and they are not able to keep pace with the 4,660 complaints received per year.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

An average nursing home provider practice investigations is that each complaint takes an average of 10 hours to investigate (compared to the assumption of 14.3 hours used for Adult Protective Services investigations). Using that assumption, the unit needs 27.4 FTE to meet its obligation for timely and through investigations, meaning 15.4 more FTE are needed.



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EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 3: Protection – Each individual who is vulnerable will be protected.

The decision package is essential to implementing the AL TSA Strategic Objective 3.3: Ensure investigations are thorough, documented properly, and completed timely to maintain an efficient work flow that eliminates re-work caused by investigations which remain open longer than necessary.

This request supports the Results Washington Goal to decrease the percentage of vulnerable adult abuse and neglect investigations open longer than 90 days.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

This topic of residential client safety has been a priority for the Joint Executive and Legislative Task Force on Aging and Disabilities and will be supported by a number of the members. The Governor has included increased RCS funding to protect vulnerable adults in his two previous budget proposals. Advocates such as the Senior Lobby, Disability Rights Washington and AARP will also likely show strong support.



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