

AGING AND LONG TERM SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION



Skilled Nursing Comparability

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Request	FY16	FY17	15-17
FTE	0	0	0
GF-State	\$168,000	\$168,000	\$336,000
Total	\$336,000	\$336,000	\$672,000

DECISION PACKAGE SUMMARY

The Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA) requests a rate increase for skilled nursing services from the current standard rate of \$51/visit to \$87/visit in order to maintain access to this service for Medicaid clients. These rates would match those currently paid by the Health Care Authority (HCA). AL TSA is losing provider capacity due to higher rates paid in the private sector or other state agencies, which currently pay between \$79 and \$90 per visit. By funding this request, AL TSA will be able to maintain the availability of home health skilled nursing services for Medicaid clients served by DSHS, meaning seniors and the disabled.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The purpose of the Department’s Home Health program is to provide equally effective, less restrictive quality care to the client in their residence when the client is not able to access the medically necessary services in the community or in lieu of hospitalization. Home health skilled services are provided for acute, intermittent, short-term, and intensive courses of treatment.

However, there is currently a shortage of available providers, mostly due to the relatively low hourly rate paid by DSHS. The “per visit” rate includes travel time and costs, visit time, and all documentation or telephone follow-up required by the visit. On average, each visit equals 90 minutes. The expenditures for skilled nursing have declined from a monthly average of \$61,000 per month in fiscal year 2013 to \$53,000 per month in fiscal year 2014.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

AL TSA proposes a rate increase comparable to that paid by other state agencies. The proposed new rate of \$87 per 90 minute visit equals an hourly rate of \$58/hour.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The budget request supports DSHS Goal 1: Health – Each individual and each community will be healthy and Goal 5: Public Trust – Strong management practices will be used to ensure quality and efficiency. Home skilled nursing services



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service

AGING AND LONG TERM SUPPORT ADMINISTRATION

Skilled Nursing Comparability

2015-17 BIENNIAL BUDGET



will help to keep people healthy, and are also one aspect of Washington's successful effort to re-balance its safety net services from institutional nursing and hospital care to home and community based services, which cost far less money.

The decision package is essential to implementing the AL TSA Strategic Objective 4.1: Ensure seniors and individuals with a disability who are in need of long-term services and supports are supported in their community.

This request supports the Results Washington goal 3.2: Increase the percentage of supported seniors and individuals with a disability served in home and community-based settings.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACT

Advocates for senior and disability issues, including Home Care of Washington, Private Duty Homecare Association and the Washington State Home Care Coalition, will support AL TSA continuing to have a viable home health skilled nursing program to prevent people from entering or returning to a hospital or nursing home.



DSHS VISION

People are healthy • People are safe • People are supported • Taxpayer resources are guarded

DSHS MISSION

To transform lives

DSHS VALUES

Honesty and Integrity • Pursuit of Excellence • Open Communication • Diversity and Inclusion • Commitment to Service