

# Home and Community Based Services

## FACTSHEET

### **Status:**

- Many of the home and community based services (HCBS) available to seniors and people with disabilities, including Personal Care, Home Health, Elderchoices and Home Delivered Meals, are at risk due to fuel prices and an increased minimum wage. Many programs will likely close without new funding, which may drive people into institutions.
- More than 70% of Arkansas Medicaid long-term care (LTC) expenditures fund institutional care, with the remaining 30% spent on HCBS. The LTC system needs to be “rebalanced” and HCBS must be supported and adequately funded in order to meet this goal.
- Not only do Arkansans prefer to remain in the home, but HCBS are less expensive than nursing home care.

### **Program:**

Allocating funding will increase reimbursement rates for HCBS available to seniors and persons with disabilities such as Personal Care, Home Health, Elderchoices and Home Delivered Meals.

### **Impact:**

- Increasing reimbursement rates to support HCBS for seniors and persons with disabilities will allow HCBS services to continue for those who need them.

### **How it Works:**

- An increased focus on health promotion and prevention interventions will reduce future need for LTC and/or institutional services.
- Ensures LTC independence to Arkansas’s seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Since HCBS are more economically sound than institutional care, the State of Arkansas will see significant savings.

**Administration/Oversight:** The Arkansas Department of Human Services will allocate monies equally throughout the biennium to increase reimbursement rates for HCBS available to seniors and persons with disabilities such as Personal Care, Home Health, Elderchoices and Home Delivered Meals.

Funds to support these services will be appropriated by the Arkansas General Assembly to Arkansas Medicaid. Arkansas Medicaid is conducted as a partnership between the state and federal government. The program is overseen by the Arkansas Departments of Health and Human Services and the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

