

Why can't we pay homecare workers more?

Unfunded Mandates, Other Medicaid Changes Make it Hard for Agencies to Boost Workers' Pay

Over the past three years, homecare agencies have been saddled with unfunded mandates totaling \$43 each time they hire a direct care worker. In other words, every new hire costs an agency \$43 more than it did just three years ago! Yet, Medicaid reimbursement has remained the same since 2014. Here's a breakdown:

Mandate	2017	2019	\$ Increase
Criminal Background Check	\$8	\$22	\$14 ↑
Child Abuse Clearance	\$8	\$13	\$5 ↑
FBI Clearance	\$0	\$24	\$24 ↑ (pending OAPSA bill)

In addition, with the implementation of Community HealthChoices (CHC), homecare agencies have gone from billing one entity, the Medicaid PROMISe system, to having to train their billing staff on three different billing systems for each CHC-MCO. These changes along with the additional costs up front even before a worker can be hired, make it nearly impossible to pay workers what they truly deserve!

TAKE ACTION!

Support a Medicaid Rate Increase in the 2019-20 State Budget. Enable seniors and people with disabilities to stay at home!