



Save Community First Choice!

Legislators have the rare opportunity to give people the services they need, while saving the state money.

What is Community First Choice?

Community First Choice (CFC) is a part of Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It's our most cost effective, flexible and accessible source of funding to help people seniors and people with disabilities of all ages live in the community.

CFC has been a lifeline for many people with IDD who are using CFC to get off DDS waiting lists and to start building stable, rich and productive lives in the community.

Services funded include: Personal Care Attendants, Transitional Services, Home-delivered meals, Environmental Accessibility Adaptations, Assistive Technology, Acquisition, maintenance and enhancement of skills necessary for the individual to accomplish ADLs, IADLs and health-related tasks, Backup systems, Training.

CFC is Cost Effective

- CFC receives an enhanced Medicaid match of 56% versus the standard 50%.
- CFC costs approximately half of home health care, a required Medicaid service. It is also significantly less costly than institutions, nursing homes, and DDS Medicaid waiver services.
- CFC helps seniors and people with disabilities reduce their dependency on government support and avoid institutional care.
- CFC ensures maximum funds go to actual care with minimal administrative and third-party fees by requiring people to self -direct.

CFC Keeps People with Disabilities & Seniors in Their Communities

- 4100 seniors and people with disabilities have applied for CFC.
- 1002 are currently using CFC.
- More than 130 Money Follows the Person (MFP) recipients have used CFC to leave nursing homes and live in the community.

Eliminating CFC Will Cost Us More

In addition to the cruelty of forcing people with applications pending, who have finally received a ray of hope, back on to endless waiting lists, eliminating CFC will cost the state more money.

- People using CFC will be forced to utilize higher cost Medicaid services.
 - Some on CFC will choose to jeopardize their personal health by living in the community without the basic support they need. In these cases, Connecticut can expect *increased Emergency Room visits, hospitalization, and short-term rehab—which will cost the State much, much more than CFC.*

- Some will be forced into institutions and nursing homes *costing approximately three times as much* for elders and people with disabilities.
- Some on CFC will be forced to increase utilization of agency based home health care which *cost approximately twice as much per hour* than CFC personal care services.
- Connecticut's progress in Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS) Rebalancing will be damaged, risking millions in state savings from unnecessary institutionalizations. According to the Institute for 21st Century report, Connecticut can save \$657 million by rebalancing our long-term care system.

CFC Has Broad Support

Recently representatives from 43 organizations and a wide variety of constituencies including IDD, seniors, autism, traumatic brain injury, disability rights, legal rights, providers and labor sent a letter to Governor Malloy asking him to reconsider his proposal to eliminate CFC.

The Arc Connecticut

The Alliance: The Voice of Community Nonprofits

Brain Injury Alliance of CT

CT Legal Rights Project

Greater Hartford Legal Aid

CT State Independent Living Council

Arc Quinebaug Valley

Family Empowerment Task Force

Futures, Inc.

Stamford Education 4 Autism

Friends of Autistic People

Communitas, Inc.

Arc New London County

Autism Double Checked

Community Residences, Inc.

AARP

Alzheimer's Association of Connecticut

CT Legal Services

Autism Services and Resources Connecticut

*New Haven Legal Assistance
CT Cross-Disability Lifespan Alliance*

Arc of Farmington Valley

Arc of Greater New Haven

Sarah, Inc.

West Hartford Public Schools

Community Navigators

Franciscan Home & Hospice Care

*Our Families Can't Wait/SEIU
Independence Northwest*

SEIU, 1199 NE

Autism Speaks

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

CT Council on Developmental Disabilities

Feinstein Education Law Group

CT Down Syndrome Congress

Arc of Meriden Wallingford

Marc Community Resources

CT Family Support Network

Community Navigators

Norwalk Senior Center South

CT Autism Action Coalition

Center for Serenity

West Haven Interagency Network for Children

Community First Choice is the Right Choice for Connecticut!

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