



Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2

Resources on Aging
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House Bill 45 Budget Impact on Home-Based Services

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The Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 45 in December that included some aging and disability service provisions:

- \$350 million for nursing homes related to workforce relief payments,
- \$10 million for home and community-based services related to the workforce shortage crisis,
- \$8 million to support adult day centers,
- \$50 million for Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) expansion in 6 counties including Montgomery County.

While House Bill 45 was passed in lame duck session, the newly sworn-in 135th Ohio General Assembly now sets conference committees and proposals from State agencies to start the biennium budget process. The Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a) advocates to raise wages for Home Care Assistants to \$20 per hour, and a 50% increase in the state reimbursement rate for the direct care workforce.

Throughout the state, the home care workforce shortage crisis has greatly accelerated during the pandemic. Major contributors to this crisis are wage competition with fast food and retail employers, plus low state reimbursement rate to home health care provider agencies which limits what these employers can pay.

There are over 6,000 older adults in our region unable to acquire timely assistance to remain in their homes. According to PSA 2 Executive Director Douglas McGarry, "These people are more likely to either enter a nursing facility or go without home help at all, which can hasten safety and health concerns toward faster decline."

Ohioans are asked to contact their legislative representatives requesting their support for the higher pay and state reimbursement rate to help keep older Ohioans safe and at home in the future. [Click here](#) to find the legislators for your region.