

Long Term Care Choices through Medicaid

Medicaid is a health care program for low income Alabamians. Applicants must meet eligibility criteria for one of the Medicaid programs in order to qualify for traditional benefits. Medicaid embraces the concept of consumer choice for individuals whose care can adequately be provided in their home or other community settings. Since 1982, options for home and community choices have been available for individuals applying for long term care services. Individuals with special health care needs at risk for nursing home placement may choose available services in the home and community.

Elderly and Disabled Program (1982)

- Provides home and community services that would allow elderly and/or disabled individuals to live in the community who would otherwise require nursing home level of care. The number of individuals served through this program has increased 24% over the last 5 years.
- Administered by the Department of Public Health and the Department of Senior Services. In FY 2005, 7,816 individuals were served through community based long term care options. \$59.3 million was spent on community based long term care options.

Mental Retardation Program (1981) and Living at Home Program (2002)

- Provides home and community services to individuals that would otherwise require the level of care available in an Intermediary Care Facility for the mentally retarded (ICFMR)
- Administered by the Department of Mental Health. In FY 2005, 5,800 individuals were served through community based long term care options. \$224.4 million was spent on community based long term care options.

State of Alabama Independent Living Program (SAIL, 1992)

- Provides home and community services to disabled adults with specific medical diagnosis who meet nursing home level of care criteria
- Administered by the Department of Rehabilitation Services. In FY 2005, 554 individuals were served through community based long term care options. \$6.5 million was spent on community based long term care options.
- To further promote personal responsibility and choice by allowing individuals to make decisions about their long term care needs, Medicaid has submitted a proposal to CMS to allow case management activities to begin while an individual is in a nursing home. The case management activities will assist in the coordination and arrangement of services and support to facilitate the individual's successful transition from the nursing home back into the community through the SAIL program.

HIV/AIDS Program (2003)

- Provides home and community services to individuals with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS and related illness who meet nursing home level of care criteria
- Administered by the Department of Public Health. Currently in FY 2006, 6 individuals are being served through community based long term care options.
- Medicaid has submitted a proposal to CMS to allow case management activities to begin while an individual with HIV/AIDS is in a nursing home. Case management activities will assist in the coordination and arrangement of services and support to facilitate the individual's successful transition from the nursing home back into the community through the HIV/AIDS program.

Technology Assistance Program for Adults (2003)

- Provides home and community services to individuals who received private duty nursing through the EPSDT program no longer eligible for the services upon turning 21 years of age
- Administered by the Department of Rehabilitation Services. In FY 2005, 4 individuals were served through community based long term care options. \$287,003 was spent on community based long term care options.