

RFA: HCBS WAIVER RATES INCREASE

SPONSOR: REP. MARSHA JUDKINS



- WITHOUT SUFFICIENT REIMBURSEMENT RATES, HCBS WAIVER SERVICES ARE UNSUSTAINABLE AND BENEFICIARIES MAY HAVE TO RESORT TO A MORE RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CARE IN A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY, AT A MUCH HIGHER COST.
- THE UTAH LEGISLATURE APPROVED AN INCREASE FOR HCBS WAIVER RATE CODES IN 2019 (THE FIRST GENERAL INCREASE IN 12 YEARS). EXACTLY ONE YEAR LATER, RATES WERE ROLLED BACK AS PART OF A CMS REBASING YEAR, WITH SOME CODES PAYING AT A LOWER RATE THAN PRIOR TO 2019. DHHS WORKED TO REESTABLISH THE RATES TO SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE 2018 RATES.
- SINCE 2019, THE COVID-19 PHE AND HIGH INFLATION HAVE RESULTED IN RECORD COSTS OF ACQUIRING STAFF AND PROVIDING CARE.
 - IN 2020, A JULY SURVEY REVEALED THAT THE 'ALL-IN' COST OF PROVIDING ONE HOUR OF CARE WAS \$25.64 (PER HHAU SURVEY OF MEMBERS)
 - IN 2023, THE AVERAGE 'ALL-IN' COST OF PROVIDING ONE HOUR OF CARE IS \$35.69, A 39% INCREASE IN 2.5 YEARS. MOST OF THESE COSTS ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE COST OF LABOR.
- MANY PROVIDERS HAVE REDUCED THE NUMBER OF HCBS WAIVER CLIENTS THAT THEY ARE SERVING OR THE NUMBER OF HOURS BEING PROVIDED, OR ARE NOT TAKING ANY NEW REFERRALS. THERE IS ALREADY A WAITING LIST FOR OF APPROVED BENEFICIARIES WHO CAN'T FIND CARE.
- GOVERNOR COX'S 2024 BUDGET PROVIDES FOR \$5.4 MILLION TO EXPAND HCBS WAIVER SERVICES TO 258 INDIVIDUALS. THOUGH WE ARE SUPPORTIVE OF EXPANSION, UNLESS THERE IS A SUFFICIENT RATE INCREASE, THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL SIMPLY BE MOVING FROM ONE WAITING LIST TO ANOTHER.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT**

**MATT HANSEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR@HHAU.ORG
801-312-9110**