

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Josh Shapiro  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Home and Community-Based Services Rate and Wage Study

Dear Governor Shapiro,

On behalf of the undersigned coalition of associations and advocacy groups representing the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) sector in Pennsylvania, we write to formally request the immediate release of the Home and Community-Based Services Rate and Wage Study conducted by the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL), with support from Mercer Government Human Services Consulting (Mercer). Additionally, we request access to the aggregate provider survey responses that were utilized to inform this study, in part.

This targeted rate review was commissioned in early 2024 to evaluate the current payment rates for the following critical services provided through the Department of Human Services' Office of Long-Term Living:

- Personal Assistance Services (agency and participant-directed);
- Adult Day;
- Structured Day Habilitation;
- Employment and Training; and
- Residential Habilitation Services.

We understand that the rate review was originally scheduled for release in September 2024, was subsequently delayed to November, and then postponed again to February 2025 to align with the state budget address. Per updates provided through the monthly Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Subcommittee meetings, it has been confirmed that the study was completed in November 2024 and has since been under executive review. These meetings further confirm that the results of this study were integral to budget deliberations and were expected to inform the February 4th budget address.

**The findings of this review are essential for fully informed legislative and budgetary decision-making.** Additionally, the provider survey data used to develop this rate review is intended to support House Bill 1300's wage study, which is concurrently examining workforce compensation across this sector. The release of these findings is therefore critical to shaping policies that address the needs of Pennsylvanians who rely on LTSS and the dedicated workforce that provides these services.

Given the increasing demand for HCBS and the severe workforce shortages in the industry, timely access to this data is paramount. **Delays in releasing this information hinder the ability of policymakers, providers, and stakeholders to make well-informed decisions that ensure access to quality care for older adults and individuals with disabilities.** This aligns directly with the priorities outlined in the Commonwealth's Aging Our Way, PA initiative, and other essential programs aimed at supporting these populations.

For these reasons, we urge your administration to release the results of this targeted rate review without further delay. A transparent and collaborative approach to addressing the ongoing challenges in the LTSS system is essential to ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of these vital services for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and to working together in support of Pennsylvania's home and community-based care system.

Sincerely,



Mia L. Haney, CEO  
Pennsylvania Homecare  
Association



Misty Dion, CEO  
Roads to Freedom  
CIL of North Central PA



Garry Pezzano, CEO  
LeadingAge PA



Susan Tomasic, Board Chair  
Statewide Independent Living  
Council (PA SILC)



Carl Berry, President  
PA HCBS Association



Richard S. Edley, PhD  
President/CEO



Thomas Earle, CEO  
Liberty Resources



Joan W. Martin, Chair  
Coalition for Choice

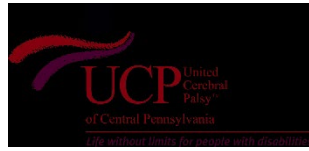


Fady Sahhar, CEO  
ProVantaCare



Michael Grier, Executive Director  
Pennsylvania Council on  
Independent Living

*Michael Grier*



Janeen Latin, President/CEO  
UCP Central PA

*Janeen Latin*



Shona Eakin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Voices for Independence

*Shona Eakin*



**Hearts for Home Care**  
A BAYADA Community Supporting Quality Care at Home

David J. Totaro  
President, Executive Director  
Hearts for Home Care

*David J. Totaro*



Leslie Gilman, President  
Pennsylvania Adult Day  
Services Association

*Leslie Gilman*