

Aging Strategic Alignment Project

Under the 2006 Reauthorization of the Older American Act, the Administration on Aging was given full authority for ensuring Americans have a choice of high quality long-term care options, including home- and community-based services (HCBS). The Aging Network has a forty-year history of delivering an array of these services to older adults through its network of State Units on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging. In anticipation of the aging of the baby boomers and greater demands for long-term care and supports, the Aging Network is actively expanding HCBS programs in order to maximize consumer choice, ensure quality of care, and enable older adults to remain living independently as long as possible. This approach meets the preferences of most consumers and helps federal and State governments to manage ballooning Medicaid and Medicare budgets by shifting dollars away from more expensive institutional care to HCBS programs.

This study was undertaken to provide an overview of the States' HCBS programs and to provide individual State profiles that detail the types of HCBS programs for older adults and adults with physical disabilities. These include HCBS programs funded under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and state Medicaid plans, including waivers, and those funded by the States and the Older Americans Act. The report begins with the overview of findings from cross-state comparisons with accompanying tables and charts. The findings are intended to provide the states with information that can help guide their efforts to expand and improve HCBS programs.

The information was gathered in interviews primarily with key informants at the State Units on Aging and from other state employees to whom we were referred. We are grateful to everyone who generously made time to speak with us and share their knowledge and opinions about HCBS programs in their state. We also would like to express our appreciation to Robert Hornyak, Director of the Office of Core Programs, and Lori Gerhard, Director of the Office of Planning and Policy Development, at the Administration on Aging who guided the project. The Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Aging, Roland Hornbostel, provided assistance with the development of the interview. The staff at the National Association of State Units on Aging, especially its Executive Director, Martha Roherty, was very helpful in making connections with the State Units and providing insightful feedback on our work.

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