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Kernan announces program aimed at making home-based care available to more Hoosiers
Area agencies on aging will help determine eligibility for 'Hoosiers at Home'

Gov. Joe Kernan today announced "Hoosiers at Home," a new program that makes the option of home- or community-based care available to more of the state's citizens who currently live in nursing homes.

The program is available to Hoosier seniors and other nursing home residents who receive Medicaid assistance and can safely live in home- or community-based care.

"The Hoosiers at Home program gives access to home-based or community-based medical care and services to nursing home residents who can thrive outside the nursing home setting," Kernan said. "Through this program, many seniors will be able to live their lives closer to family and friends, and still receive the services they need."

With funding from a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Nursing Home Transitions grant, FSSA will provide support to those who qualify for in-home services including health services, homemaker assistance, attendant care, respite care, adult day services, transportation, meal delivery and other appropriate services such as minor home repairs and modifications, and adaptive aids.

The Family and Social Services Administration already has identified 2,200 Medicaid recipients across the state who indicated an interest in moving into the community on their initial nursing home placement form.

Working with partners and advocates around the state, FSSA will determine which of these residents and others could be safely served outside a nursing facility.

Kernan also announced that four Area Agencies on Aging will participate in an intensive case management pilot program as part of the Hoosiers at Home program. Each AAA will receive \$53,881 to hire and supervise a dedicated case manager, who will assess which nursing home residents in their service areas could be transitioned back home or into community-based care. The pilot program agencies are listed at the end of this release.

In addition, all nursing home residents will receive a letter with a toll-free number to call if they want more information about home and community based placement.

"FSSA is committed to helping Hoosier live as independently, safely and self-sufficiently as possible," said Cheryl Sullivan, Secretary of FSSA.

In the past two years, 1,436 Hoosier seniors have been diverted from entering a nursing

home and instead received in-home services. In the fiscal year of 2004, more than \$85 million was spent to serve Hoosiers who needed in-home services, including 33,385 seniors.

On average, it costs \$25,954 per person per year to provide community-based services, approximately \$12,000 less than the \$38,298 average cost to provide care in a nursing facility.

In the next two decades, the number of Hoosier seniors over age 85 is expected to grow by 55 percent.

“To address the needs of this growing population in Indiana, we must continue to develop innovative ways to provide more services that allow seniors to stay active and independent in their communities,” Kernan said. “Hoosier seniors need to know they have choices in the care they receive.”

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Area Agencies on Aging participating in the intensive case management pilot as part of the Hoosier at Home program

· **REAL Services, Inc.**

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Covers *Elkhart, LaPorte, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph* counties

· **LifeStream Services, Inc.**

1701 Pilgrim Drive

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Covers *Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison and Randolph* counties

· **CICOA The Access Network**

4755 Kingsway Dr., Suite 200

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Covers *Marion, Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Shelby, Johnson, Morgan and Hendricks* counties

· **Southwestern Indiana Regional Council on Aging, Inc.**

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