

The background of the slide is decorated with various abstract and botanical elements. In the top left, there's a large pink circular shape with white concentric lines, surrounded by brown leaves and a small orange circle. To its right are brown leaf outlines and a cluster of small brown dots. In the top right, a teal shape with brown dots is visible. The bottom left features a teal shape with brown dots and a small orange circle. The bottom center has a brown leaf outline and a small orange circle. The bottom right shows a pink wavy shape with white concentric lines, a teal leaf outline, and a cluster of small brown dots. The main title is centered in a large, bold, black font, and the subtitle is centered below it in a smaller, black font.

# **Advocacy Presentation**

Promoting Home and Community-Based Service Access

# Services for Older Adults




Aging in place is defined as a person living in the home and community of their choice as they age. Many older adults prefer to age in place due to the ongoing connection to their community, increased privacy and autonomy, and the comfort of remaining in their home.

Home and community-based services include caregiver respite, physical rehabilitation, and personal care services, such as bathing, shopping, and meal preparation.


Sometimes family members provide these services, known as informal care. Other times, these services are provided by direct care professionals, known as formal care. There is often a combination of formal and informal care that takes place when a person ages in place.

Older adults can also receive services in a residential facility setting, known as institutional care. This includes skilled nursing homes and assisted living facilities.



# Issues



- The older adult population is growing rapidly.
  - There are barriers to Medicaid recipients aging in place.
  - High turnover rates and inadequate compensation for the HCBS workforce contribute to gaps in HCBS services.
  - These conditions lead to the over-institutionalization of older adults.
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# Outcomes

## Individual

Increased feelings of loneliness, dissatisfaction, and depression in older adults.

## Society

Barriers to housing options that promote aging in place jeopardize the autonomy of older adults.



# Outcomes

## Individual

Medicaid recipients and people living in rural communities are the most affected by gaps in HCBS services.

## Society

Multigenerational connections are diminished as older adults move out of their community into institutional care.



# Proposal

## Awareness

Raising awareness will increase public support of policies that improve Medicaid HCBS access.

Organizations like [The Arc](#) and [NCOA](#) are good places to start learning about the issues and current advocacy efforts.

## Funding

More funding will improve Medicaid HCBS and provide adequate compensation to the associated workforce.

Funding can also be used to compensate family members who are providing informal care services.

## Standards

Increasing the training and service quality standards for HCBS providers will improve the quality of HCBS and increase older adult's ability to successfully age in place.





# Better Care Better Jobs Act



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## HCBS Infrastructure Improvement Program

- Permanent enhanced federal Medicaid matching funds for HCBS.
  - Increased federal matching rate for HCBS administrative costs from 50 to 80 percent.
  - States will be required to meet certain requirements to receive funding, such as providing family caregiver respite services, annually reporting their HCBS core quality measures, and covering personal care services (Musumeci, 2021).
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## The Money Follows the Person Program

- Made permanent.
- \$450 million in funding per fiscal year.
- Implement procedures that improve quality assurance standards for HCBS (CMS, n.d.).
- Identify and eliminate barriers in state law, Medicaid plans, and budgets that have been hindering Medicaid recipients from receiving services in the setting of their choice (CMS, n.d.).

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## Spousal Impoverishment Program

- Made permanent to prevent unnecessary transitions to institutional care (Caldwell, 2021).
- States will continue to provide Medicaid HCBS without requiring that the spouses of recipients get rid of their income and assets in order to qualify for coverage (Caldwell, 2021).
- Permanent spousal impoverishment protections ensure that married couples can afford to age in their community and separation is not necessary to qualify for needed care.



# What You Can Do



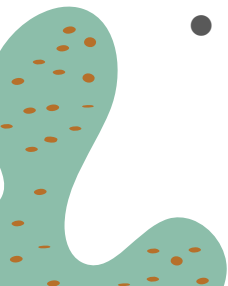
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- Seek to understand the experiences of older adults in your community and their views on aging in place.
  - Attend advocacy days related to disability rights and HCBS.
  - Contact your state representatives and voice support for the Better Care Better Jobs Act and other legislation that expands HCBS access.
  - Share the information you learn to recruit allies for this issue.
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# Conclusion



- **Issue:** Barriers to HCBS lead to the over-institutionalization of older adults whose preference is to age in place.
- **Outcomes:** Decreased quality of life for older adults and communities losing their connection with this population.
- **Solutions:** Passing the Better Care Better Jobs Act.
- **Your Role:** Let your representatives know you support policies that create, fund, and improve HCBS services.



# References

Caldwell, J. (2021). The Better Care Better Jobs Act and home-and community-based services. *Community Living Policy Center*, Brandeis University.

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Musumeci, M. (2021) How could \$400 billion new federal dollars change Medicaid home and community-based services? *Kaiser Family Foundation*.

Pope, C. (2020). Taking the strain off Medicaid's long-term care program. *Manhattan Institute*.