



Family Care Investment

Background

\$60 million (\$25 million GPR \ \$35 million FED) was allocated in the 2017-19 biennial budget which allowed assisted living facilities and other Family Care providers a one-time opportunity to invest in its caregivers. Through this increase, assisted living facilities will be able to offer much needed incentives and increases to caregiver wages. However, assisted living providers are concerned this direct caregiver funding may only be a one-time appropriation – leaving providers without an important tool to recruit and retain vital direct caregivers.

Request

The \$60 million distribution should be part of the Family Care base funding appropriation - a permanent biennial allocation. Doing so will allow assisted living facilities the opportunity to provide permanent wage increases and incentives to its caregivers. This would be particularly meaningful and helpful as assisted living facilities are undergoing a significant workforce shortage crisis. Please see attached press release dated April 30, 2018.

Testimonials

“Brotoloc South, Inc is looking forward to passing through the \$60 million in an effort to combat the workforce crisis in Assisted Living. We will be paying out bonuses to our long-term dedicated staff and putting funds towards incentivizing new staff to work in Assisted Living. While we are pleased with the job the legislature did with securing these funds, this is a temporary and partial solution to a long-term state-wide problem. Our elderly and disabled deserve the highest level of care which providers can only offer through a permanent solution which includes higher reimbursement in the Family Care program and a fair wage for caregivers.”

Chris Cohen, Brotoloc South

“Not only will the financial support help us to better provide services to our residents, but it sends a message to our care staff that they are vital to the success of our communities and the State recognizes their hard work and dedication.”

Becki Kiefer, Senior Lifestyles

“Providers are receiving rate cuts at an alarming rate, which decreases our abilities to increase our staff wages, provide adequate employee incentives, and pay them what they are truly worth. This \$60 Million will allow us to increase our staff incentives that are difficult to provide with the current funds. We are extremely happy for these funds and would ask for them to continue into the next biennium with an increase each year to help us keep incentives flowing to our hard-working staff.”

Susan Bronecki, Christian Family Homes

“The direct care worker funding shows residents that they are worth the time, effort, and care. It also shows our caregivers that they are worth the time, effort, and care. With this additional funding, our organization can provide that extra time, effort, and care.”

Erica Falk-Huzar, Deer Path Integrated Living, Inc.

About WALA

The Wisconsin Assisted Living Association (WALA) is the largest assisted living specific association in Wisconsin with over 1,500 members. WALA represents the three regulatory categories of assisted living: Adult Family Homes, Community Based Residential Facilities, and Residential Care Apartment Complexes. Many of WALA’s members also have memory care and ancillary services such as home care and hospice services. WALA’s mission is to support providers in enhancing the best quality of life for residents in assisted living in Wisconsin through advocacy, education, communication, and quality initiatives.

WALA – Wisconsin Assisted Living Association

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