



OHIO ASSISTED LIVING ASSOCIATION

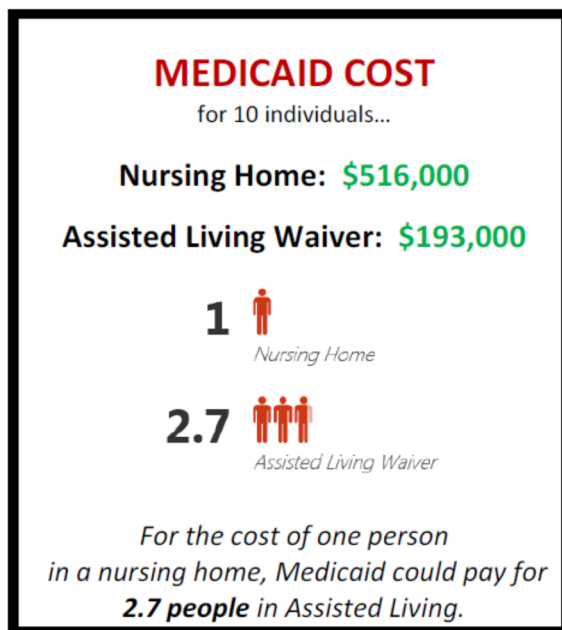
Access to the Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Program is currently limited due to the low reimbursement Assisted Living communities receive for a significant service package.

Assisted Living is a cost-effective alternative to nursing home care...

The Assisted Living Waiver is good for Ohio.

*Medicaid cost savings for 10 people
served by the Assisted Living Waiver,
instead of in a Nursing Home,*

...is \$323,000/year.



Older Ohioans and tax payers need access increased to the Assisted Living Waiver.

This will only be possible if the program is reimbursed more equitably for the services provided. The ALW program has never had a rate increase (2006 dollars). New language added in the Sub HB 49 would prohibit an increase during the course of the biennium. **We ask that the prohibition on an increase in the Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver rates be removed from the budget.** In the *as introduced* budget bill, the Departments of Medicaid and Aging, indicated that rates would be increased, allocating approximately 13 million dollars state funds (approximately 34 million dollars all funds). **We ask that those funds be reinstated.**

We ask, you on behalf of Ohio's rapidly aging population and Ohio's taxpayers, to review our requests: **1) to remove the prohibition on an increase in the ALW during the biennium and 2) to reinstate monies for an increase.** Assisted Living is a Home and Community Based service that along with other options can help Ohio deal with our aging population's needs in a cost effective manner. We are regularly asked why more Assisted Living providers do not participate in this important program, or increase their participation. We surveyed all Ohio Assisted Living providers and resoundingly heard, *we cannot afford to. If rates were increased, 78% said they would either become providers or expand access to the program.* ***We ask you to make an investment in the Assisted Living waiver program in this budget.***