

Home and Community Based Services Relief Act of 2023

Home and community-based services, also known as HCBS, are critical services that support disabled people and older adults living independently in their own homes and communities. Funded primarily by Medicaid, home and community-based services support disabled people and older adults with day-to-day activities, such as getting dressed, preparing meals, assisting with medications, providing on the job support, and using transportation.

However, these services aren't available to everyone who needs them, and, simultaneously, the direct care workers who provide those services are extremely underpaid. The current patchwork of programs to provide long-term care in this country doesn't meet the growing demand for these services. This forces people who need care and their family members into untenable situations, where they have to choose between the care they or their loved ones need and keeping their jobs.

The HCBS Relief Act would provide two years of funding to states to improve their HCBS programs. States have the option to use the funding to increase pay or provide benefits to direct care workers, bring eligible people off the HCBS waiting lists by providing them care, help move people who want to leave institutions and return to their homes and communities to do so, and support family caregivers.

Additional Resources:

- Bill Text: <u>S. 3118</u> and <u>H.R. 6296</u>
- HCBS Relief Act of 2023 (Office of U.S. Senator Casey)