



# Ohio HCBS Coalition: Talking Points

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*Make it as easy to remain home as it is to go to a nursing facility.*

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## **Maintain and expand home and community-based services and supports**

- Majority of deaths from COVID-19 have occurred in long-term care facilities with the overwhelming amount of deaths being individuals 60 and older in congregate settings
- People prefer to stay at home and Ohio has an obligation to build out and support these systems
- HCBS waivers enable individuals to maintain independence in their homes and communities
- This system has been historically underfunded
- The pandemic is exacerbating long-term issues, there is a critical need to expand this system
- Ohio should fully fund HCBS to provide a real choice for individuals
- HCBS is more cost effective

## **Expand transitions out of long-term care facilities to the community**

- We need viable alternatives to congregate care and safe transitions out of institutional care for individuals
- Finding unique ways to shore up funding through increased federal match and dedicated GRF can help ensure individuals transition into the community

## **Identify those most at-risk of institutionalization**

- Ohio should increase care coordination for individuals most at-risk of institutionalization to prevent placement in long-term care facilities

## **Maintain current level of care and not making any reductions during the pandemic**

- Ohio should leverage resources to ensure individuals are able to access and receive services in the most appropriate setting for their needs

## **Support and bolster provider and workforce capacity**

- The pandemic has caused drastic increases in PPE costs and providers have incurred losses in utilization due to social distancing measures
- Reimbursement rates for home health and personal care aides have been dismal prior to the pandemic and are not competitive with wages in other service industries even though the state has identified these jobs as “critical needs” jobs
- Without sufficient investment in the provider infrastructure, individuals’ ability to access HCBS is greatly diminished
- It is critical these rates increase to meet the new challenges presented

