

2017 PHFA Housing Forum

Getting a Roof Over Your Head and the Future of Home Ownership

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Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL)

- OLTL programs support people with physical disabilities and seniors to live in their own homes and communities
- OLTL administered programs are funded primarily through Medicaid, a federal/ state funded partnership
- OLTL is a program office within the Department of Human Services (DHS)
- DHS has a broad human services reach, administering programs that provide health care, child welfare services, programs for people with intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, seniors and much more

Policy Initiatives

Serve More People in the Community

- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs
- Nursing Home Transition
- HCBS Final Rule

Focus on Employment

- Employment First Executive Order
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act

Home and Community-Based Programs

HCBS programs

- HCBS provides for supports and services beyond the Medical Assistance health insurance program
- They enable a person to remain in a community setting rather than being admitted to a Long Term Care Facility
- Currently OLTL administers 5 HCBS programs, each HCBS program has its own eligibility requirements and services
- <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/healthcaremedicalassistance/homeandcommunitybasedservices/>

Nursing Home Transition

The NHT Program assists NF residents who want to move from a nursing facility back to a home of their choice in the community.

NHT Goals -

- Identify and overcome barriers that prevent transitions
- Empower individuals to involve them to the extent possible in planning and directing their own transition from a nursing facility
- Develop the necessary infrastructure and supports in the community

HCBS Settings Final Rule

Mandatory requirements for the qualities of home and community-based settings. The Home and Community-Based setting -

- Is integrated in and supports access to the greater community
- Provides opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, and control personal resources
- Ensures the individual receives services in the community to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid home and community-based services

Employment First Policy

Last year Governor Wolf issued an executive order called the Employment First Policy.

It establishes policy for agencies under the Governor's jurisdiction requiring competitive, integrated employment to be the first consideration and preferred outcome of all publically funded education, employment and training, and long-term supports and service programs for working-age Pennsylvanians with a disability.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) - federal legislation designed to strengthen and improve the public workforce system.

- WIOA increases individuals with disabilities' access to high quality workforce services and prepares them for competitive integrated employment
- WIOA improves coordination between agencies to help people seeking jobs or training assistance to navigate between agencies
- <https://www.doleta.gov/WIOA/Overview.cfm>

The Pennsylvania ABLE Act

The Pennsylvania Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act follows federal legislation that authorizes states to create ABLE programs.

- PA ABLE is a state-offered program that gives individuals with qualifying disabilities a tax-advantaged way to save or invest without impacting their government benefits
- Examples of Qualified Disability Expenses includes - expenses for a primary residence, rent, purchase of a primary residence, mortgage payments, real property taxes, utility charges
- <http://www.paable.gov/faqs/#overview>

Questions?