

# Home and Community-Based Services

## Background

Home and community-based care programs offer services and supports to individuals and people throughout our state, which allow them to lead safer, more independent lives, while reducing caregiver stress and shrinking the costs of publicly funded healthcare by avoiding premature placement in residential facilities.

## Why is this important?

Home and community-based care services, such as in-home meal delivery to seniors, the Emergency Home Response System and the Community Care Program, which provides care coordination, adult day services and in-home assistance, are critical to ensuring a high quality of life for the individuals and families facing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in Illinois. These programs allow seniors to remain in their homes and communities, providing a sense of stability and independence, while avoiding premature or unnecessary hospitalizations or placements in residential facilities, which significantly increase the costs of care.

In July of 2015, access to the Community Care Program and other social services that benefit the Alzheimer's community was drastically reduced by the governor in response to the state's budget crisis. While this decision was partially reversed in November, the four-month lapse and the broader uncertainty created by these events has highlighted the need for increased state action, not reductions:

- At any one time, it is estimated that 70 percent of people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias live at home;
- Seniors and persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias who are able to remain in their homes and receive community-based services experience a strong sense of independence;
- Home and community-based services are significantly less costly than premature residential placements; and
- They and their unpaid caregivers, who number in the tens of thousands, count on the high-quality care that these services offer to help reduce the stress associated with caregiving.

## What do we want to happen?

The Alzheimer's Association, Illinois Chapter Network, supports adequate revenue to sustain a state budget that funds services and supports for the people and families facing Alzheimer's disease in our state.

We strongly stand by measures that would protect access to quality social service programs. These services are critical to people living with Alzheimer's disease and should not be vulnerable to shifts in the state's political landscape.