

WE ASK THAT YOU!

SUPPORT: AN INCREASE OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ALF'S

ALFs reimbursement has been stagnant over the last 5 years

3,090 assisted living facilities in Florida

104,870 licensed beds

ALFs accepting Medicaid need funding to implement the following positive outcomes:

- Technology
- Staffing Increases
- Staff Pay
- Staff Training
- Increased Nutritional Offerings

Staff training and advancement continues to be threatened when reimbursement remains stagnant.

SUPPORT: SB 1592 / HB 1349

Assisted Living Modernization for Consumer Choice

The legislation:

- Recognizes that assisted living communities are residential models with a health care component by specifically promoting consumer choice in the use of technological advances and innovation in health and safety.
- Provides policy guidance in resident admission and resident care that provides support for agency rulemaking.
- Clarifies statutory requirements, eliminates confusion, and allows both AHCA and assisted living providers to operate more efficiently.
- Removes regulations that are either out-of-date or duplicative, while also modifying assisted living statutes to keep pace with changing seniors' expectations and industry standards.

Specifically, the legislation:

- Defines assistive devices for resident mobility. Seniors use assistive devices in their own home for walking and movement, and to provide stability and independence. They want to continue realizing the benefit of these devices when transitioning to their assisted living home. Additionally, assisted living providers can utilize such equipment to reduce on-the-job injuries to staff.
- Authorizes the use of safety devices and equipment, and reasonable security measures. The new generation of ALF residents, who are comfortable with smart phones and iWatches, want the safety provided by wander management devices and security systems.
- Adds resident admission criteria that allows the same services that were provided at home to be provided to the resident in their assisted living home. This allows a housing option for residents who cannot remain safely at home but do not meet a higher institutional level of care.
- Cleans up old language that was not removed when the building construction authority was moved from AHCA to the Florida Building Commission.



Florida Assisted Living Association

2019 Legislative Priorities

Florida's aging population is growing rapidly. Florida has the second-largest population of persons over the age of 65. By the year 2020, Florida is expected to have more than 6.3 million persons age 65 and over. We must start working on how we intend to assist seniors in the aging process.

For those receiving care in the community, for the family members providing services to those in need, and for Florida's economy, our system has to focus on caring for older adults in the community. Preserving state resources through in-home care and assisted living services is the most cost-effective way.

Florida Assisted Living Association supports:

Quality and Resident Safety

- Protection of residents' rights in all residential and healthcare facilities
- Continued enforcement of unlicensed providers

Appropriations and Funding — Florida assisted living facilities on average have seen the same reimbursement rate from managed care organizations for the last four years. This gap impacts quality care because it contributes to staffing issues and an inability to maintain modern facilities.

- Reality-based solutions built on personal responsibility that direct funding towards staffing, infrastructure, technology and other programs to improve care and care delivery
- Programs that reward providers who are investing in the areas that improve outcomes
- An increase in appropriate funding and the establishment of policies so that seniors are provided services in the most integrated but least restrictive environment
- Increased funding for Medicaid waiver spots
- Requiring long-term care insurance companies to provide reimbursement based on resident care needs

Policy Priorities

- Legislation that promotes a market-driven economy and minimizes additional burdens that have no direct impact or correlation to resident health and safety
- Survey reliability throughout the state
- A moratorium on follow-up inspections completed within a specified time period
- License applications not fully processed being provided a provisional license until completed by the agency
- Providing information to individuals in nursing homes and other institutions about less restrictive environments
- Rule-making procedures that facilitate the ability for the public to provide constructive comments that will be taken into consideration before rules are adopted