

SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES IN OKLAHOMA ARE EXPERIENCING A FUNDING CRISIS



Exceptionally low funding threatens care for over 18,000 vulnerable, elderly Oklahomans in skilled nursing facilities and the livelihoods of 19,000 caregivers and staff. Since 2010, Oklahoma's skilled nursing facilities have seen their annual state and federal funding cut by approximately \$93 million. Because of those cuts, Oklahoma's Medicaid reimbursement rates for long-term care services are some of the lowest in the nation.

Seventy percent of all Oklahoma skilled nursing facility residents rely on taxpayer support through Medicaid. EVERY Medicaid patient represents a loss of \$19.45 a day for skilled nursing facilities. The average Oklahoma skilled nursing facility loses \$300,000 annually in uncompensated care from Medicaid residents.



Our current funding situation is untenable. Since 2000, the number of skilled nursing facilities in Oklahoma has fallen from 417 to 301 (116 have closed). The Oklahoma Association of Health Care Providers (OAHCP) estimates that approximately 30% of remaining facilities are in danger of closing without additional funds. Closures will leave many vulnerable, elderly seniors without care and potentially homeless.

WE NEED HELP FROM OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Say NO to ANY cuts to Medicaid: Skilled nursing facilities in Oklahoma are so underfunded that we anticipate 30% are currently at risk of closure. Even a 5% cut could lead to over 120 closures; a 10% cut could close over half the state's skilled nursing facilities.

DO work to restore cuts to the skilled nursing facility provider rate. Since 2010, the Legislature has reduced state funding to skilled nursing facilities by \$38 million, leading to the loss of \$93 million in annual state and federal funding. Restore our 2010 rate to support seniors and prevent additional closures. Support a \$1.50 per pack cigarette tax.

DO restore funding to the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to its 2010 levels BEFORE funding insurance companies through Medicaid managed care. Lawmakers should prioritize funding for Oklahoma patients and their health care services before paying the salaries of insurance company CEOs and other administrative costs.

Say YES to rule-changes proposed by Oklahoma State Department of Health designed to support and incentivize facilities that make physical improvements to their homes. Additionally, say YES to OSDH rules that provide clarity and streamline procedures for skilled nursing professionals seeking responsible compliance with administrative reports.