Build PCA/CFSS Rate Framework into Budget Forecasts

HF 2721 Representative Lippert / SF 2967 Senator Utke

The Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program, accessed by 44,000 individuals across Minnesota, is one of the most cost-effective Medicaid programs in our state, helping older adults and people with disabilities continue to live in their own home and participate in their community. The PCA program is also the most diverse, 62% of service recipients are Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). A majority of the workers are women and also BIPOC.

The services provided by PCAs, who help with a wide range of personal supports, has been a critical lifeline for thousands of our neighbors, family members, and friends since the 1970s.

Today, Minnesota's PCA program – and the individuals who depend on it – are in crisis.

The PCA program, has been one of the **lowest** reimbursed services with a reimbursement rate that is much lower than similar type services, increasing only $3.36 **per** hour over the past 14 years. That is only $0.24 per year. The current rate of just $19.60 is not enough for this **valuable** service.

High turnover, causing reduced quality of care, is creating instability in the lives of people with disabilities and older adults.

Some Minnesotans have been left alone without care due to the PCA staffing shortages across Minnesota. Other individuals who rely on PCA services have moved into more costly, restrictive settings like nursing homes or residential care facilities.

To ensure the sustainability and improve the quality of Minnesota's PCA program, we must:

Better fund the PCA rate framework passed into **law** last session and include language that would build cost-based adjustments into the reimbursement rate over time. This continued investment is essential to support the efforts of providers and individuals receiving services to recruit and retain workers.

Invest in the PCA framework to allow agencies to pay overtime for PCAs working more than 40-hours a week. We need to maximize the support that being provided by the dedicated PCAs.