

FY2022-2023 State Budget Issue Brief

Adult day services

Adult day services are a community-based option where older adults and people with disabilities can receive the long-term services and supports (LTSS) they need while living in their home and in their communities. Under Ohio's PASSPORT waiver, adult day serves older adults who would otherwise be served in a nursing facility at a significantly higher cost to the state. Adult day provides critical support to unpaid family caregivers, enabling them to continue to work outside of the home during the day or otherwise engage in their community. For many Ohio families, adult day is the support that allows them to continue unpaid caregiving.

Adult day services were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, with closures persisting into October and reopening guidelines prohibiting a return to normal census levels. During pandemic-related closures, LeadingAge Ohio surveyed a group of Ohio adult day providers. Data show the staggering impact of adult day closures.

Survey results revealed that:

- 100% of providers reported that the care needs of their participants had increased.
- 87% of family caregivers reported that their loved ones' care needs had increased.
- 83% of participants were forced to seek a higher and more expensive level of care.
- 74% of family caregivers reported having to choose between work and providing care to a loved one.

Even prior to the pandemic, PASSPORT adult day was woefully underfunded and had seen significant provider attrition in recent years as the cost of providing care significantly exceeded reimbursement. The last time PASSPORT adult day received a rate increase was in 2013. At that time, the legislature recognized it is an important program to fund to keep aging Ohioans out of more expensive settings and provide Ohioans the ability to live at home for as long as possible.

Neighboring Kentucky reimburses adult day at \$2.83 per 15 minutes, or over \$90 per day. Pennsylvania reimburses adult day at a rate 15-23% higher than Ohio's, depending on region and service intensity.

With only an estimated 100 adult day providers remaining statewide and the number of older adults in Ohio expected to peak within the next decade, Ohio cannot afford to lose more of these front-line care providers.

Budget needs regarding adult day services in Ohio:

- Invest \$9.5M over the biennium to shore up Ohio's adult day sector, with:
 - \$4.29M for transportation
 - \$5.18M for increasing provider rates
- Create parity with childcare programs by allowing reimbursement for cancellations and unscheduled absences.