



Multipurpose Senior Services Program Site Association, Inc.

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MSSP MUST NOT BE ELIMINATED FROM THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET FOR FRAIL ELDERSD!!! THE ENTIRE "SAVINGS" FROM MSSP ELIMINATION IS IMMEDIATELY WIPED OUT

What is MSSP?

MSSP, the Multipurpose Senior Services Program, is a Medicaid-funded program that:

- Has operated under a federal Medicaid HCBS 1915(c) waiver since 1983
- Serves 12,600 chronically ill, disabled older adults annually in the home instead of a nursing home
- Provides patients with professional nursing, social work, and clinically driven direct services necessary to remain safely at home: service coordination with health care providers; monitoring health status and ensuring timely interventions—infections, polypharmacy, pressure ulcers, signs and symptoms of acute cardiac, pulmonary, and neurological events; emergency response system rental; medication dispensers; transportation to doctors appointments; fall prevention interventions; supplemental personal care; supplemental chore; protective supervision; temporary caregiver relief; linkage to home visiting physicians, laboratory services, dental care, and mental health services, local food, clothing, non-medical equipment, incontinence supplies, donated household items, etc.
- Is comprised of a network of 40 sites throughout California
- **Matches every state dollar with a federal dollar**
- **Saves California taxpayers over a hundred million dollars each year**

Who does MSSP serve?

MSSP patients are:

- Sixty-five (65) years or older (average age is 85)
- State certified at nursing home level of care and *unable* to live at home safely without MSSP
- Medically and psychosocially more complex and needing more clinical support than IHSS can provide
- The poorest community-dwelling elders—income of \$845 per month if single / or \$1215 per month if married
- Those heavily reliant on family caregivers who are overwhelmed, or have no family or friends to help

How is MSSP part of the SOLUTION to California's Budget Crisis?

Total public costs of an MSSP patient are 47 percent LOWER than the cost of nursing facility placement¹

- If just 9% of MSSP patients (1,145) are placed in a nursing home, the entire "savings" from MSSP elimination is immediately wiped out
- Program elimination would cost Californians an estimated **\$110 million** or more from increased need for nursing home placements alone, and even more with increased use of emergency and acute care services
- Lowers healthcare costs—100% of MSSP patients have multiple chronic conditions (MCC)—studies show patients with MCC are the highest cost health care utilizers in the absence of coordinated care such as MSSP
- Helps patients access the right level of health care services at the right time to prevent more costly care
- Helps patients find and advocates for critically-needed services in a fragmented and shrinking safety net
- Supports local economies through contracts with hundreds of small businesses throughout the state

Aging is the number one cause of disability in California.

- Of people age 65 and older, 40.6% are considered disabled²
- Beginning January 1, 2011, every 8 seconds a Baby Boomer turns 65—California cannot afford to eliminate the essential safety network of services provided by MSSP
- Persons age 85 and over are the fastest growing group, and among the frailest and most dependent on home and community-based services to remain at home

As one of the few remaining safety net programs targeting the frailest elders, MSSP must not be eliminated!

- Once it's gone, it's gone forever

For more information, contact Erin Levi of Lehman, Levi, Pappas and Sadler at (916) 441-5333.

¹ Based on data from CMS-372, Annual Report on Home and Community-Based Waivers (FY2008-09). This report compares annual average per capita Medicaid costs for HCBS for individuals in the waiver program with costs for institutionalized persons at the same level of care.

²The SCAN Foundation, Fact Sheet No. 11. October 2010.