

Policy

Testimony on the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Program for California State Legislative Staff

Description

This March 2007 testimony provides a history of consumer-directed home care in California, how it is funded and why cutting funding will undermine recruitment and retention of home care workers. In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) home care workers include, family, friends and neighbors, as well as persons unknown to care recipients, who provide paid long-term care to the frail elderly and disabled individuals in their homes. Much of the data used to support the arguments come from the results of the “In-Home Supportive Services Worker Survey: Making Homecare a Better Job” (see p. 78).

How to Use this Tool

The testimony can serve as a model for testimony before state and federal legislative hearings on the significance of wages and benefits for recruitment and retention of consumer-directed home care providers.

Grantee

Connecticut College

How to Obtain this Tool/Contact

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Testimony on Proposed Cuts to the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Budget Before California State Senate and Assembly Committees

Description

This 2005 testimony provides a set of useful arguments to support providing acceptable wages and health insurance benefits for consumer-directed home care workers as a strategy for recruitment and retention. The California In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) home care workers include family, friends and neighbors, as well as persons unknown to care recipients, who provide paid long-term care to the frail elderly and disabled individuals in their homes. Much of the data used to support the arguments come from the results of the “In-Home Supportive Services Worker Survey: Making Homecare a Better Job” (see p. 78).

How to Use this Tool

The testimony can serve as a model for testimony before state and federal legislative hearings on the significance of wages and benefits for recruitment and retention of consumer-directed long-term home care providers.

Grantee

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Iowa Direct Care Worker Education Task Force Report and Recommendations – 2006

Description

The Iowa Direct Care Worker Task Force, mandated by the Iowa legislature, was established in part by the advocacy work of the Iowa Better Jobs Better Care state demonstration project. The goal of the task force was to develop comprehensive recommendations to improve the quality of care Iowans receive by improving and streamlining education and training requirements for all direct care worker classifications. The report, submitted to the governor, Iowa General Assembly and Iowa Department of Health, recommended:

- ◆ The development of six direct care worker classifications, based on function
- ◆ Specific education and training requirements for each classification
- ◆ Specific implementation mechanisms to move these changes through the legislative and administrative process
- ◆ The establishment of a direct care worker governing body
- ◆ An expansion of the direct care worker registry

The task force has reconvened, met through May 2008 and has already begun to implement some of these recommendations.

How to Use this Tool

Many long-term care stakeholders can use the task force's process and recommendations as models to improve and streamline the education and training requirements for direct care workers in their state and enhance the status of the direct care workforce. These stakeholders can include direct care worker associations, policy makers, educators, long-term care worker advocates, long-term care providers, direct care workers, state officials and economic, labor and workforce development advocates.

Grantee

Iowa CareGivers Association, Iowa State Demonstration Project

How to Obtain this Tool

Visit the Iowa Department of Public Health at www.idph.state.ia.us/hpcdp/workforce_planning_reports.asp.

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North Carolina New Organizational Vision Award (NC NOVA) Legislation

Description

This legislation established NC NOVA as a statewide voluntary special licensure program. The legislation states that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services shall establish the program in accordance with the criteria and protocols developed by the NC NOVA Partner Team (also identified in the legislation) and adopt the rules for implementation. It also ensures that the North Carolina Quality Improvement Organization is the independent review organization for three years to establish continuity of the program.

How to Use this Tool

The legislation is a template for those interested in establishing a similar program and can be used as a model for a state workforce bill.

Grantee

North Carolina Foundation for Advanced Health Programs, North Carolina State Demonstration Project

How to Obtain this Tool

Visit www.ncnova.org/links_and_resources.html

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Philosophy Statement on Person-Centered Care for State Statutes and Regulations

Description

This statement defines person-centered care and person-directed care and offers suggestions for how a state and its partners can develop a system of care that is person-centered and person-directed.

How to Use this Tool

Advocates of person-centered care can draw on Oregon's experience in creating person-centered care language in a state's philosophy, statutes and regulations.

Grantee

Oregon Works!, Oregon State Demonstration Project

How to Obtain this Tool

Visit www.bjbc.org.

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