



Provider Rates

DPHHS Senior and Long Term Care Division contracts with private businesses and organizations to provide health care and related services to those who qualify for Medicaid and other state supported help. Services include nursing home care, personal assistance, home and community based services, and aging services to seniors and people with disabilities. Those businesses and organizations are currently being paid at about the same level they were paid in FY 2009. Service rates were increased by 2% on July 1, 2009. Although the legislature approved an additional 2% to be paid on July 1, 2010, the Governor withheld that increase as part of the 2010 budget cuts. On July 1, 2011, rates were cut by 2% - returning them to July 1, 2008 levels.

The 2% rate increases that were approved by the 2009 Legislature were designed to assure that the businesses who partner with the state to provide services are able to maintain their services and pay their workers given the inflationary pressures of health, liability and workers comp insurance, medical supplies and equipment, consultant services, utilities, food, wages and other products and services, which all continue to cost more.

Without increasing provider rates over the 2% that is proposed in the Governor's budget, which would essentially bring providers up to FY2010 funding levels, there is the potential for some providers to discontinue operating or providing some services, which would decrease people's access to services and could potentially result in an increase of health care related costs as individuals are forced to seek higher cost options, such as nursing homes, to meet their needs. It will help businesses, employees, and those receiving services all over the state and will put millions of dollars directly into the Montana economy.