

Healthy Aging

September 2016 Update

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Community Health Choices Proposal

(formerly Managed Long-Term Services and Supports, or MLTSS)

[Community Health Choices \(CHC\)](#) is "Pennsylvania's new initiative that will impact older Pennsylvanians receiving long-term services and supports (LTSS) paid for by the state and Pennsylvanians receiving both Medicare and Medicaid. CHC is being developed to (1) improve access and coordination of medical care and; (2) create a person-driven, long-term support system in which people have choice, control and access to a full array of quality services that provide independence, health and quality of life."

Implementation of CHC is set to begin on July 1, 2017 in the southwestern region of the state. The southeastern region will follow in 2018 and the rest of the commonwealth, in 2019.

[See timeline for details.](#)

Through a request for proposals, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services has selected [three managed-care organizations \(MCOs\)](#) to proceed with negotiations to provide physical health care and long-term services and supports for older Pennsylvanians beginning in 2017:

- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Pennsylvania Health and Wellness (Centene)
- UPMC for You

For more information or to get involved, visit [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.](#)



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Medicaid Waiver Challenges

The Medicaid Waiver program, run by the state and federal governments, provides in-home services to allow aging seniors and people with disabilities to live safely in their own homes.

Previously, applications for admittance into the Medicaid Waiver program were processed by Area Agencies on Aging. However, in April 2016, those responsibilities were privatized to Maximus. The change took place after federal officials determined it was a conflict of interest for the Aging offices to review and approve applications for services that are often provided by those same organizations.

With the switch, applicants are experiencing longer delays in getting their requests processed, with many exceeding the maximum 60-day timeframe.

According to State Human Services Department Press Secretary, Kait Gillis, while Maximus has shown progress – the company completed 484 enrollments between April and July 2016 – state records show that 2,569 total application requests were filed during that period.

[Read entire article.](#)

Enhancing Quality of Services for Seniors

Under the Older American's Act, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging is required to develop and implement a [State Plan on Aging](#) outlining how the department will protect the commonwealth's most vulnerable population, and empower individuals to age in place with the respect and dignity they deserve.

The 2016 – 2020 State Plan on Aging is effective from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2020.

There are four goals to this plan:

- Promote existing services
- Improve access to services
- Enhance quality of services
- Foster career development for workforce serving seniors

United Way's Healthy Aging Public Policy and Advocacy Committee wants to hear your thoughts and suggestions. [Join us](#) on the third Tuesday of every month at the United Way offices.