



2015 Senior Care Reforms Overview

Reforms that will help Minnesota seniors get the care they need are underway now, thanks to a bipartisan group of 148 lawmakers who came together to pass reforms signed by the governor last year. These reforms, which will help ensure that seniors get high-quality care in a welcoming place close to loved ones, are in the beginning stages of implementation.

Under these reforms, which took effect January 1, 2016, payment rates set by the state for all residents reflect the actual costs of care.

I was very grateful for the pay increase we received recently. I can now realistically look at leaving my second job, that has been supplementing my family's income for the past 6 years and focus on the job at Samaritan that I truly love. It also gives me the opportunity to spend valuable time with my family that is very important to me! Thank you so much!!

**- Matt
Samaritan Bethany, Rochester**

Facilities are able to invest in innovative and enhanced quality care services, thanks to the reforms which make funding more predictable and sustainable. This will have a positive impact on residents' lives and the lives of those who provide care. Here are a few examples of how reform is already helping residents and their families:

- Financial stability helps keep nursing homes and other care facilities operating in more communities, giving seniors and their families more choices
- More experienced caregiving staff are able to provide better quality care
- Less staff turnover means residents get to know the people providing their care
- More resources for engaging and enriching opportunities that benefit residents and the larger community

In many communities across Minnesota, it has been difficult to recruit and retain enough qualified caregivers to meet the growing need. The 2015 reforms support efforts to attract and retain expert staff who are appropriately compensated for the difficult – and rewarding – work they do. Long-term care staff across the state are benefiting from reform, when administrators are able to:

- Hire additional workers
- Give employees raises
- Increase employee health benefits
- Expand staff development opportunities

The full benefits of the 2015 reforms won't happen all at once, and it will take time to implement the reforms right. As they roll out over the coming months and years, there will be even more positive results for Minnesotans who need care, employees who offer care and communities that embrace their seniors.

60,000 Minnesotans will turn 65 this year, with 60,000 more next year and every year through at least 2030. With a senior population that is doubling as baby boomers move into retirement, Minnesota is now taking the first steps to prepare for the needs of our rapidly growing senior population.

We all have to do our part as our society undergoes this profound shift. Family members, professional caregivers, communities and policy makers all need to work together to ensure that Minnesota Seniors can age well in a place they can call home. When we change the way we see aging from a burden that we manage to a responsibility that we embrace, we will finally Face Aging.

You can find out more about the benefits of senior care reforms in your community by contacting info@faceagingmn.org.