

Florida Home Care AT A CROSSROADS



WHY HOME CARE MATTERS

Florida's ability to care for its people depends in large part on whether care can reach them at home.

Home health care provides skilled nursing and therapy, while home care provides non-skilled personal care, household assistance, and companionship. Together, these services help older adults, children with complex medical needs, and people with disabilities remain safely at home — protecting health and dignity, preserving independence, supporting families, and reducing reliance on costlier institutional care.

But Florida's home care system is at a crossroads. Access breaks down when Medicaid reimbursement rates cannot support the cost of a visit, managed care requirements delay approved services, or workforce shortages leave no qualified care-giver available. Without action, more Floridians will be left waiting for care that should reach them where they live.

TOP ISSUES FOR 2027

1. Medicaid Reimbursement: The Math Does Not Work

- Florida's 2026 Medicaid fee schedule pays a maximum of just \$32.07 for a registered nurse (RN) visit, \$27.06 for a licensed practical nurse (LPN) visit, and \$18.04 for a home health aide visit.
- Each payment must cover worker wages, travel, supervision, scheduling, insurance, documentation, and compliance.
- With 21.8% of Floridians age 65 or older, inadequate rates threaten access as demand grows.



2027 Policy Ask: Regularly update Medicaid rates using documented care delivery, labor, and operating costs.

2. Medicaid Managed Care: Cut the Red Tape

- Providers face different authorization, documentation, billing, and payment rules across plans.
- Florida already tracks service denials, reductions, suspensions, terminations, aging claims, and appeals.
- Delayed decisions, reduced hours, and unpaid claims disrupt care and drive providers from Medicaid.



2027 Policy Ask: Standardize plan requirements, enforce clear deadlines, publish performance data, and hold plans accountable.

3. Workforce Crisis: Florida is Last in the Nation

- Florida has just 17 home health and personal care aides per 1,000 older adults, compared with 65 nationally.
- Demand for these workers is projected to grow 17%, with 765,800 openings nationally each year.
- Median annual pay is only \$34,900 — \$14,600 below the median for all occupations.



2027 Policy Ask: Invest in recruitment, training, retention, and reimbursement that supports competitive wages.

HOME CARE BY THE NUMBERS



Economic Profile

- ~2,900 – Licensed home health agencies operating across Florida.¹
- 131,612 – Home care jobs supported statewide, including 84,562 direct employee, both up more than 6% in one year.²
- \$6.9 billion – Total labor income generated from \$4.3 billion in home health wages — a 9% increase from 2023.²



Medicare Home Health: Complex Care After the Hospital

- 919 – Medicare-certified home health agencies in Florida served traditional, fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries in 2024, averaging 281 patients per agency.²
- 233,618 – Florida Medicare beneficiaries who received home health care in 2023.²
- 84.4% – Florida Medicare home health users had three or more chronic conditions, based on the latest state-specific figure.²
- 14.3% – Share of Florida inpatient hospital discharges that transitioned to home health in 2024.²



Medicaid Home Care: High-Need Care at Lower Cost

- 87% – Share of identified Florida Medicaid home care recipients who were also enrolled in Medicare.²
- 97% – Share enrolled in managed care, underscoring the importance of timely authorizations and strong plan accountability.²
- \$73,216 – Florida's median cost for non-medical home care, compared with \$124,100 for a semi-private nursing home room.³
- \$745 million – Potential annual fiscal savings from expanding home- and community-based care rather than institutional care.⁴

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Denise Bellville, RN, BS
Executive Director
Home Care Association of Florida
dbellville@homecarefla.org
(850) 222-8967

Jimmy Card
Principal, Continental Strategy
jcard@continentalstrategy.com
(850) 999-8468

Kyle Simon
Senior Director of Policy, Advocacy & Communications
Home Care Association of Florida
ksimon@homecarefla.org
(850) 222-8967

Gangul Gabadage
Partner, Continental Strategy
ggabadage@continentalstrategy.com
(850) 999-8468

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