



a full array of services

This is the fourth of a six-part series concerning the implementation of SEA 493, a law passed by the Indiana General Assembly in 2003 to expand the availability of home health care in Indiana. Under SEA 493, the state is required to make available to citizens a full array of publicly funded long term health care services which include among others, adult day care services, adult foster care, and assisted living.

*To date, Indiana has extremely limited publicly funded services in adult day care and assisted living and no publicly funded adult foster care services. Part 4 of *The Moving Forward Series* defines these services and explores how and why Indiana must make these services available to Hoosiers of all incomes.*

Senate Enrolled Act 493 requires the following:

“Section 5. The state shall provide access to the following long term care services that are appropriate and needed for an individual who is eligible for these services under this chapter: (4) Assisted living; (5) Adult foster care; (6) Adult day services; and (11) any other service that is necessary to maintain an individual in a home and community based setting.”

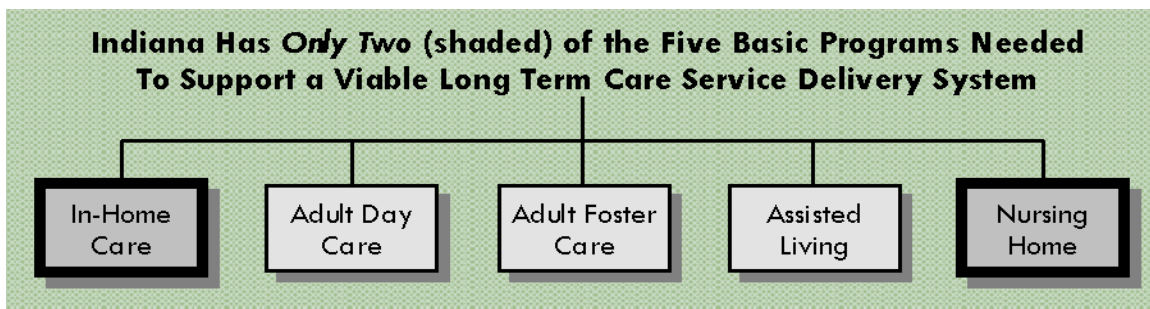
This provision provides for the formal development and incorporation of these services in order to provide the array of long term care services that are needed to safely support health care, social, and support needs of low-income elderly and disabled Hoosiers and their families in a community based setting.

While nursing homes have for years commanded the majority of Indiana’s long term care dollars, that historic trend may end because of dramatic legal changes adopted by the state legislature in SEA 493 and related acts. In fact, because of the high cost and low desirability of nursing home care as compared to home and community based alternatives, Indiana has a strong motivation to take the steps that other states have taken for years in shifting their statutory and regulatory framework from one with a bias toward nursing homes to one that is more reflective of consumer choice and demand. SEA 493 provides the legal framework for these changes.

According to *Moving Forward*, establishing a full array of services is a major part of this shift. “An aging population, the increasing role of family and friends in care giving, and the deep desire of individuals to remain independent and direct their own care demands that we have a well-developed infrastructure to provide services to citizens in need,” said Duane Etienne, President and CEO of CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions, the area agency on aging for the nine-county Indianapolis Metropolitan Area. “A properly functioning long term care system does not provide care for only the extreme circumstances – but importantly for all points in between,” Etienne concluded.

Indeed, those points in between are the key to providing a system of care that is not one sized fits all, but rather one that uses flexibility and responsiveness to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Of the five long-term care service settings needed to support a full array of long-term care service options, heretofore, Indiana has only had available two on a statewide basis: in-home care and nursing home care. (Please see graph below) Of the two, nursing home services are automatically available to all eligible Hoosiers, while services provided in a consumer's own home, and to consumers in an adult day care settings assisted living, or adult foster care settings are available only on a limited basis and may require placement on a waiting list for an extended period of time. Therefore, even though nursing home care is the most expensive long-term care service option, it is fully funded while in-home care and community residential services are not.



Moving Forward points out that the existence of a full array of services –especially adult foster care and assisted living – is critical as states develop programs designed to successfully transition nursing home residents back into the community. It should also be noted that a functioning system of Adult Day Care, Assisted Living, and Adult Foster Care will also accomplish a number of long term care rebalancing objectives. These include:

- Introduction of a new, affordable, and accessible housing option for Indiana's low income elderly and disabled population
- Growth of the number of long term care providers available to provide needed community based services in the state
- Reduction of the number of unnecessary institutionalizations
- Generation of per person savings over time
- Improvement of consumer health outcomes and quality of life
- Recognition and utilization of the ever-growing role of family caregivers

It is clear that if Indiana is to fulfill the promise of SEA 493 and implement a system of long term care that is responsive to both consumer needs and fiscal realities, it must put in place an array of options that can seamlessly provide such care to Hoosiers regardless of age, income, or level of impairment.

Moving Forward provides detailed definitions of and strategies for implementing a full array of services for Hoosiers.

The full ***Moving Forward Report*** is available at www.generationsproject.org