



DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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CSP continues to ease the stress and burden of eligible caregivers

The DHS Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) Caregiver Support Program (CSP) offers a helping hand to family caregivers right here in Allegheny County who work daily to balance caregiving with other life responsibilities. While caregiving is often thought of as just taking care of an older adult, caregiving covers the lifespan from grandparents taking care of grandchildren to taking care of a spouse with impaired mobility, a parent with dementia, a homebound sibling or a relative with a chronic condition or disability.

Recently several changes have been put in place to assist caregivers. In June, Governor Wolf signed [Act 20 of 2021](#) into law, which expands eligibility and allows flexibility in the administration of Pennsylvania's CSP. This new law was a step in the right direction for the Caregiver Support Program, with changes that not only removed barriers but allowed the program to serve more caregivers in need during these challenging times.

Effective August 10, 2021, the maximum monthly reimbursement amount (based on the caregiver's calculated reimbursement percentage) increased to \$600, and the maximum lifetime reimbursement amount (based on the caregiver's calculated reimbursement percentage) for home modifications or assistive devices increased to \$5,000.

In addition to statewide changes, Allegheny County's CSP has held several virtual training and recognition events for CSP caregivers during the pandemic. These events have featured speakers including Barry J. Jacobs, Pamela D. Wilson, and Cynthia J. Hickman as well as presentations by AAA staff and care managers. Both the [winter](#) and [summer](#) CSP training and recognition events are available for viewing online.

Allegheny County's AAA has also adapted their caregiver training sessions to take place virtually through Zoom. The next series of classes start September 30 and will run through November 4 (view the 2021 Powerful Tools for Caregivers schedule [here](#)). Next year, plans are in place to hold classes both virtually and in person. There is no cost for caregivers, but registration is required: (412) 350-5051 or Jacqueline.Musgrove@AlleghenyCounty.US.