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| ***Nevada Commission on Aging*** ***Voting Members:****Chris Giunchigliani,**Commissioner Clark County**Daniel Corona,**Mayor West Wendover**Stacy Gilbert,**Member of Governing County**Barry Gold,**Member at Large* *Leilani Kimmell Dagostino, Member at Large**Jeffrey Klein,**Member at Large**Mary Liveratti,**Member at Large* *Niki Rubarth, Member at Large* *Jose (Joe) Tinio**Member at Large* | **AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION****COMMISSION ON AGING**January 11, 2019Richard Whitley, Director Department of Health and Human Services 4126 Technology Way, Suite 100Carson City, NV 89706Dear Director Whitley:The Nevada Commission on Aging is writing this letter respectfully requesting a review in the upcoming budget on the current Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) budgeted caseload and eligibility process for the Frail Elderly (FE) and the Physical Disability (PD) Waiver. **Waiver Slots**Waiver slots keep individuals living in the community as opposed to being placed in an institutional setting. Waivers provide access to an array of community-based services including: personal care (bathing, grooming, toileting, transferring/ambulation, dressing, eating); adult day care; respite; homemaker services; chore services; and, adult companion. Costs for community-based services are significantly less than for a nursing home placement.As of December 2018, there are 504 older adults waiting an average of 135 days for access to the Frail Elderly HCBS Waiver and 221 individuals waiting an average of 273 days for Physical Disability Waiver Services. While waiting to receive a waiver, these individuals are at risk of increased health issues and nursing home placement. Slots for waiver services are insufficient to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population. The Nevada Commission on Aging supports increased budget authority to address waiver slots and eliminate the waiting period. **Eligibility Process**The Waiver eligibility process involves three (3) state agencies and can span a total of 90 days for a final decision as follows:Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) – * Screens for eligibility within 15 days of receipt of application to determine preliminary eligibility.
* Completes an in-person assessment within 45 days of application for individuals determined with preliminary eligibility.
* Sends application packet to Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) for final eligibility determination.

Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) – * Completes a desk review, requests financials and all required documentation to verify eligibility within 45 days.
* Final eligibility determination is communicated to ADSD for action.

Nevada Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy (DHCFP)-* DHCFP receives final waiver approval from ADSD for an administrative review and approval.
* DHCFP has 15 days to make the final determination and system changes to implement services.

The current process is complex for individuals to navigate, time intensive, and does not support access to services at a reasonable pace. The Nevada Commission on Aging would recommend a streamlined eligibility process for HCBS Waivers to keep people in their homes, avoid institutionalization, and save taxpayer dollars. Sincerely,NEVADA COMMISSION ON AGINGChris GiunchiglianiDaniel CoronaStacy GilbertBarry GoldLeilani Kimmell DagostinoJeffrey KleinMary LiverattiNiki RubarthJose (Joe) TinioNicole CannizzaroEllen SpiegelDena SchmidtCC: Steve Fisher, Administrator Division of Welfare and Supportive  Services Cody Phinney, Acting Administrator Division of Health Care  Financing and Policy  | ***Nevada******Commission on Aging******Non-Voting Members:****Richard Whitley, Director, Department of Health and Human* *Services**Dena Schmidt, Administrator, Aging and Disability Services Division* *Nicole Cannizzaro,**State Senator**Ellen Spiegel,**State Assemblywoman* |