

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Aging and Disability Services Division
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Dena Schmidt
Administrator

November 5, 2020

Governor Steve Sisolak
State Capitol Building
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Sisolak,

The State of Nevada has been working hard to ensure that individuals eligible for long-term services and supports (LTSS) receive high quality and cost-effective person-centered care that is consistent with the individuals needs and wishes and that promote access to services in home and community-based settings. The COVID-19 public health emergency has brought new light to our states long-term care facilities and systems and highlighted the important role of community-based care options.

Home and community-based services enable children, individuals with disabilities and older adults to have their care needs met in a variety of settings that provide alternatives to institutionalization. Nevada needs to accelerate reform efforts and rapidly modernize the delivery of home and community-based services, that provide more cost effective, person centered, integrated options for individuals with disabilities and older adults.

Home and community-based services include: homemaker services, home health aide services, personal care services, adult day health services, respite care, habilitation services, day treatment and partial hospitalization programs, and other cost effective services necessary to avoid institutionalization.

Programs throughout the Department of Health and Human Services need to have the flexibility to address the changing service needs throughout Nevada during the ongoing public health crisis. We encourage the Governor and the Legislature to continue to provide the Department of Health and Human Services the ability to transfer funds amongst the various budget accounts within the Department with the approval of the Interim Finance Committee that was granted through AB3 in the 31st special session. This continued flexibility will be critical in providing the Department the necessary tools to adjust priorities in an ever-changing environment.