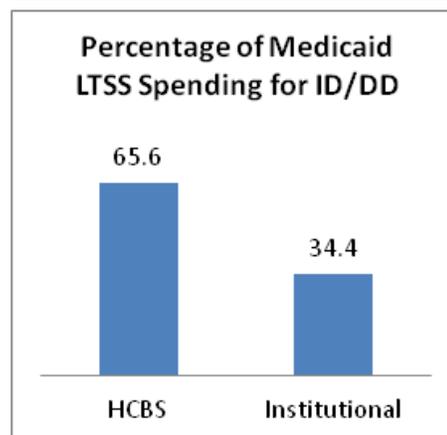
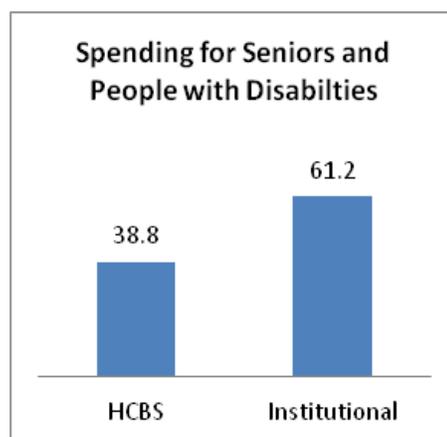


## Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

- Home and community-based services (HCBS) are the network of services and supports that allows individuals to live with dignity and independence at home and in the community.
- HCBS are widely acknowledged as both the preference of individuals who require LTSS and the most cost-effective way to deliver those services and supports.
- Medicaid, the joint federal-state program that provides healthcare coverage for low-income individuals, is the single largest purchaser of long-term services and supports (LTSS) in the United States, accounting for 62% of all expenditures in 2011.<sup>1</sup>
- Although states participating in Medicaid are required to provide nursing home services, coverage of most in-home services and supports is optional.
- The majority of home and community-based care is provided by 52 million unpaid caregivers, primarily family and friends of those who need LTSS.<sup>2</sup>
- Medicaid consistently spends more on institutional care than community-based care for beneficiaries with LTSS needs.
- Over the years, Congress has gradually expanded Medicaid's community-based service options, but the balance of expenditures still falls on the side of nursing homes and other facilities. In 2011 61% of LTSS spending was for institutional care.<sup>3</sup>



- Rebalancing has left out seniors. The top five states spend just over 36% of elderly LTSS on HCBS, and the bottom five spend below 9% of elderly LTSS on HCBS.<sup>4</sup>
- The shift toward HCBS has also left out minorities. The percentage of minority residents in nursing homes are increasing, while many whites are shifting to community options.<sup>5</sup>

1 National Health Policy Forum, "National Spending for Long-Term Services and Support (LTSS)" (2012), retrieved from <http://goo.gl/4W0K6l>.

2 Family Caregiver Alliance National Center on Caregiving, "Family Caregiver Alliance Fact Sheet: Selected Caregiver Statistics" (2012), retrieved from <http://goo.gl/wyMjVv>.

3 National Health Policy Forum, <http://goo.gl/4W0K6l>.

4 Pamela Doty & John Drabek, "Measuring Progress in Re-orienting Toward HCBS," <http://goo.gl/9dqPQx>.

5 Feng, Zhanlian et al., "Growth Of Racial And Ethnic Minorities In US Nursing Homes Driven By Demographics And Possible Disparities In Options" Health Affairs (2011), retrieved from <http://goo.gl/vF4I52>.