



# Study Resolution

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## **Affordability of Assisted Living Facilities**

Authorized by the Joint Commission on Healthcare on December 7, 2021

WHEREAS, Virginia's goal is to provide a robust continuum of aging services including community-based alternatives to nursing facility care that are available to all Virginians regardless of where they live or their socioeconomic status; and

WHEREAS, individuals may be more appropriately served in a non-medical residential setting such as an assisted living community or other supportive housing setting; and

WHEREAS, funding for Auxiliary Grants, which are income supplements for individuals who receive Supplemental Security Income and certain other aged, blind, or disabled individuals who reside in a licensed assisted living facility, approved adult foster care home, or other certified supportive housing setting, is limited and the number of auxiliary grant beds available in such facilities has steadily declined in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid waivers are successfully being utilized in other states to pay some of the costs of assisted living other than room and board; and

WHEREAS, reports from the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission and the Joint Commission on Health Care highlighted existing challenges for low-income adults to access assisted living facilities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Joint Commission on Health Care that staff be directed to study the accessibility and affordability of Virginia's assisted living facilities. The study shall (i) identify challenges assisted living facilities face in offering the auxiliary grant program and assess key factors contributing to auxiliary grant bed availability, (ii) assess whether residents may potentially be more appropriately served in other supportive housing or congregate care settings, (iii) understand the different ways that other states structure and finance their assisted living programs and the feasibility of implementing those models in Virginia, and (iv) recommend changes to Virginia's current structure, financing, and regulation of assisted living facilities to further the state's goals.

The Joint Commission on Health Care shall make recommendations as necessary and review other related issues as warranted.

In accordance with § 30-169.1 of the Code of Virginia, all agencies of the Commonwealth, including the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Medical Assistance Services shall provide assistance, information, and data to the JCHC for this study upon request.