

## Governor Adds 750 Medicaid Slots In New Jersey

New Jersey Gov. James McGeevey (D) recently released 750 new slots for the state's Medicaid Waiver Program for assisted living residences, comprehensive personal care homes, assisted living programs, and alternative family care. The additional slots were allocated with the state's fiscal year 2005 budget, which was approved by the legislature in June.

This is the third installment of a 1,500-slot increase that has occurred over the past

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three years. The first increase of 375 slots was added in July 2002; another 375 slots were added in July 2003. The new slots bring to 3,200 the total number available to New Jersey seniors covered by Medicaid. The additional slots are welcome news to those who have waited months for admission to an assisted living facility through the Medicaid waiver program.

“Seniors have been waiting a long time for these slots,” says Paul Langevin, president of the Health Care Association of New Jersey (HCANJ). “HCANJ appreciates the commitment of the governor and the legislature in adding these extra slots.”

Adding slots is good public policy, according to HCANJ, which estimates the cost savings to the state's Medicaid budget for using assisted living residences at more than \$58 per resident day. There are 157 assisted living residences, comprehensive personal care homes, and assisted living programs that participate in the state's Medicaid waiver program.

—Amy Waye