



AFFORDABLE ASSISTED LIVING COALITION ILLINOIS



# 2020 Annual Report

# A Year of Challenge & Inspiration

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the last year, we have faced new challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic. We have changed the way we care for our residents and provided important education regarding how to safely operate in an environment with new health risks, while at the same time continuing our ongoing work to ensure we receive the support and resources needed to protect and advance the Supportive Living (SL) model.

It has been a year of struggle, but it has also been a year of incredible inspiration. We have seen firsthand how our communities manage under the stress of COVID. SL staff have gone above and beyond to make sure their residents do not feel isolated and alone during these unprecedented times. From organizing window visits and car parades to creating theme days and hallway bingo, our communities have faced the pandemic head-on and have shown that a positive attitude, sense of humor and an overwhelming desire to care for their residents can do wonders for their mental and physical well-being.

With multiple COVID-19 vaccines now available, we have no doubt that our SL communities will continue to thrive and grow. They have demonstrated time and again how important Supportive Living can be in the lives of others and I am proud and excited to share the value of Supportive Living with others. It is a program that stands head and shoulders above the rest.

**Karin Zosel**  
Executive Director



# Pushing for Fair Rates, Now and In the Future

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

It has truly been a year filled with the unknown, yet AALC has never lost its focus on fighting to secure favorable legislation for Supportive Living Program (SLP) providers. For years, we fought to re-link the Supportive Living rate to the nursing home rate, and in 2020 we finally reaped the benefits of our efforts by relinking at 54.3%. While we were successful, each year we are still faced with ensuring that the link remains protected.

On other fronts, in the coming year, we will continue to advocate for COVID relief funds for our members, will work to protect SNAP benefits for our residents, and will use our growing PAC funds to advance the SLP policy agenda to ensure seniors and persons with disabilities can live in an affordable, safe, and caring environment provided by Supportive Living.

Thank you to our SLP community and vendor members for your continued involvement in and support of AALC!

**Jerry Finis**  
Board Chair



## 2020 Legislative Achievements



### **\$52 MILLION to SLP through Re-linking**

Re-linked SLP Medicaid reimbursement rates at 54.3% of Nursing Home rates resulting in more than \$52 million to the SLP industry (an average daily increase of \$15.43 with the highest increase at \$21.54)



### **COVID RELIEF = \$36 MILLION to SLP**

Advocated for the State of Illinois to direct COVID Relief funds to long term care providers that resulted in a total of \$36 million for SLP providers.



### **SNAP BENEFITS = \$1.2-\$1.5 MILLION to 11,500 SLP residents**

Protected SNAP benefits for our nearly 11,500 SLP residents by securing federal legislation that preserves an average monthly benefit per resident per month of \$145 or between \$1.2-\$1.5 million annually for the SLP industry.



### **\$200,000 PAC to PROTECT SLP**

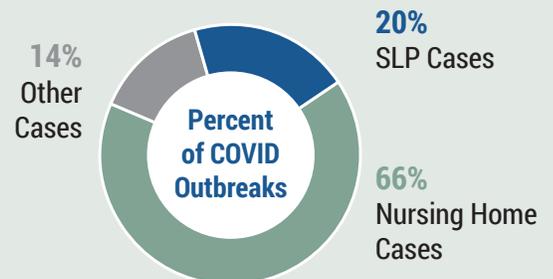
Raised and dispersed over \$200,000 in AALC PAC funds to protect and advance SLP policy agenda across the state.

## Supportive Living Vs. COVID

COVID-19 hit senior living communities across the nation hard, yet the numbers suggest Supportive Living Program communities are faring better than other models. In Illinois:

- About 20 percent of Supportive Living Program communities had outbreaks through the end of September 2020 versus 66 percent of nursing homes.
- Additionally, the data suggests that the spread of COVID after an outbreak was less in Supportive Living Program communities, which averaged under eight cases per community compared to 49 per nursing home.

We believe one reason outbreaks have been lower is due to the design of Supportive Living communities. Because every resident in the program has their own apartment, it has been easier to insulate our residents from the devastating consequences of COVID.



## Supportive Living Program (SLP) BY THE NUMBERS

**154** SLP communities  
across **73** Illinois Counties



**12,846** apartments  
throughout Illinois

SLP provides **11,415** Illinois  
residents with housing & care<sup>1</sup>



**60%** of SLP Medicaid  
residents are women

SLP employs **4,593**  
workers<sup>2</sup>

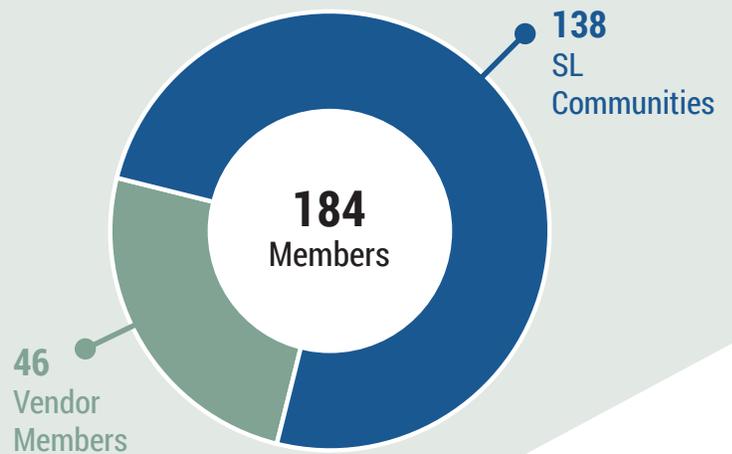


Daily SLP Medicaid rate is  
only **54.3%** of the nursing  
home rate

SLP saves Illinois  
**\$176-221 MILLION**  
annually



Type of Community	Approved	Certified
Serves only persons ages 22-64 with physical disabilities	0	6
Serves persons ages 22 and over who are visually impaired.	0	1
Serve persons who are age 65 and over.	10	132
Dementia Care	34	9



Supportive Living (SL) Communities across the state work tirelessly to provide seniors and persons with disabilities the opportunity to live in an affordable, safe, and caring environment. AALC is proud to represent the affordable assisted living model in Illinois and is constantly working to ensure that the program is recognized as an industry leader that cares for our most vulnerable citizens – seniors and persons with disabilities.

1. Medicaid residents  
2. Based on 2019 filed cost reports

## Celebrating the Spirit of Supportive Living

In early 2020, right when we were gearing up for our annual Supportive Living activities, we were stopped in our tracks by COVID-19. Facing uncertainty, stay-in-place orders, and health concerns, we realized our planned activities, including in-person competitions like Wii Bowling and Spelling Bees, were no longer plausible. So, we switched gears and launched the “Spirit of Supportive Living Week,” a virtual celebration. The week included easy activities that communities could participate in using items they already had in house. There were no rules, just ideas on ways to help residents (and staff) have the support and companionship they needed to keep them happy and entertained while self-isolating and social distancing.



Spirit of Supportive Living



1st Place Testimonial

*“When I first made my move to Grand Prairie I was recovering from an illness. All the staff was and continue to be friendly and very encouraging. They encouraged me to partake in activities, and it helped so much in my recovery. The Resident Services Coordinator asks what we want to do and is very good about coming up with fun and rewarding ideas. The whole staff at Grand Prairie has been great during the Covid-19 pandemic. They have been extremely helpful to get us through this difficult time.”*

**Jan Kinman**, Resident  
Grand Prairie of Macomb



2nd Place



3rd Place

## Annual Competition Winners

### PHOTO CONTEST

- 1st Place:** Butterfly Release, Springfield Supportive Living
- 2nd Place:** Showing Support, Mary Bryant Home for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- 3rd Place:** A Special Thank You, Heritage Woods of Ottawa

### TESTIMONIAL CONTEST

- 1st Place:** Jan Kinman, Grand Prairie of Macomb
- 2nd Place:** Rosalia Rivera, Heritage Woods of Bolingbrook
- 3rd Place:** Marcia Ybarra, Deer Path of Huntley

### CENTENARIAN AWARD

Juanita Briggs, 104 years old, Grand Prairie of Macomb

### BEST OF OUR ABILITIES COMPETITION

Mary Rogers, Prairie Green at Dixie Crossing

## Educational Opportunities

### 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our 2020 Annual Conference was held virtually in October. The conference provided an opportunity to earn continuing education credits and hear important updates related to the Supportive Living Program. The programming took place over two days and included six sessions that covered diverse topics and featured a variety of experts.

### COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER EDUCATION SERIES

AALC held a series of webinars designed to provide members with information on topics from social media to navigating Illinois' managed care system to effectively mitigating against COVID-19. These seminars were designed to be quick and informative to allow busy SLP staff to take part without carving out a large part of their day.



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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George Dinges, Treasurer  
Cindy Rapp, Secretary  
Chuck Sheets, Assistant Secretary  
Rod Burkett, Immediate Past President  
Ben Hart

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