**Community Living**

Plain Language Talking Points

***NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION***

**What is the problem?**

* The wait lists to participate in Medicaid-funded community-based programs are too long, leaving many people who wish to live in the community stuck in congregate or institutional living settings.
* The demand for affordable, accessible housing is far greater than the supply.

**Why it matters to me:**

* I value my (or my loved one’s) ability to live in the community, in the most integrated possible setting.
* My loved ones and I deserve access to HCBS programs and services without incredibly long wait lists.
* The COVID pandemic has shown how dangerous congregate living can be – I want to live somewhere that I can be safe, happy, healthy, and as independent as possible.

**What should Congress do?**

* Congress should expand Medicaid services, and invest in expanding access to HCBS programs and services.
* Congress should make HCBS mandatory and end waiting lists.
* Congress should make the MFP program permanent.