Dear Speaker Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Senate Majority McConnell and House Minority Leader McCarthy:

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads throughout the United States and COVID+ patients either return home from hospitals or nursing homes with active symptoms or shelter-in-place with the virus, home and community-based services (HCBS) become more vital than ever in reducing spread and caring for society’s most vulnerable. The federal government must provide adequate resources for these services and the workers that provide them.

There are over 2 million home care workers in the U.S., about 90% of whom are women, and more than half of whom are people of color. Home care workers prepare meals, assist with toileting, bathing, dressing, medication, and prevent social isolation for frail elderly individuals and people with disabilities who, without these services, would be in institutional care settings. Home care nurses and home care workers team together to help prevent hospitalizations, enabling clients to stay in their homes and preventing further strain on the healthcare system during the public health crisis. This need is further exacerbated as more individuals requiring long term services and supports elect to stay in their homes and communities instead of risking COVID-19 infection in nursing homes.

Most of the individuals requiring HCBS are immunocompromised and are at increased risk for COVID-19 infection, if not already COVID+. Without the necessary resources, home care workers are potentially exposing themselves, their families and their clients while providing care to thousands of individuals who rely on that care to stay safe in their homes.

We must ensure that the workforce caring for these homebound individuals has adequate resources, including proper personal protective equipment (PPE), access to testing, and enhanced compensation. As you know, this public health crisis will not be over in one wave, and we must be prepared to care for this vulnerable population while also reducing the risk of continued spread to essential workers and their communities.

These vital support services are currently under threat. HCBS providers have experienced significant increased administrative and PPE costs, workforce shortages, and decreased reimbursement revenue, but have been largely left out of recent health care provider relief packages and are not prioritized for PPE.

HCBS providers need additional resources to remain financially stable, to recruit and retain sufficient numbers of workers to care for homebound individuals, and to keep their workforce safe and healthy. We urge Congress to increase FMAP specifically for HCBS to ensure sufficient resources are available, and require the State Medicaid programs to:

- Provide pass-through funding to providers for worker support, including additional compensation and sick pay, childcare and transportation subsidies.
• Reimburse home and community-based services providers for additional COVID-19 and shutdown-related administrative costs, including telehealth systems, PPE supplies, increased overtime expenses and employee retention.

These important initiatives are currently unfunded, and, given the tenuous financial position of most HCBS providers, must be supported by federal and state government funding.

Thank you for your consideration of these funding needs. We urge you to take swift action to provide the needed support for home and community-based services (HCBS) in response to COVID-19.

Respectfully,

George Gresham
President of 1199SEIU
Donna McNamara  
VP Chief Operating Office  
Unlimited Care, Inc.

Gregory Turchan  
President & Chief Operating Officer  
Premier Home Care

Jordan N. Shames  
President & CEO  
Neighbors Home Care

Broughan Gorey  
President  
Family Home Care Services of Brooklyn and Queens

Christopher Olechowski  
Chief Executive Officer  
PSC Community Services, Inc.

Susan Brett  
Chief Operating Officer/Senior Vice President  
People Care, Inc.

Anna Fong  
Acting Executive Director  
First Chinese Presbyterian Community Affairs Home Attendant Corporation

Joanna Ciampaglione  
Senior Vice President  
AccentCare® of New York Alliance for Health®

Brad Silver  
Executive Vice President  
Bronx Jewish Community Council Home Attendant Service, Inc.

Lisette M. Smith, RN  
Executive Director  
Bushwick Stuyvesant Heights Home Attendants, Inc.

Betsy Jacobson  
Executive Director  
United Jewish of Eastside

Broughan Gorey  
President  
Family Home Care Services of Brooklyn and Queens

John Sullivan  
COO / Compliance Officer  
Chinese-American Planning Council Home Attendant Program, Inc.

Evelyn Morales RN MPH  
CCM Administrator  
Home Health Services United Hebrew

Anderson Torres, PhD, LCSW-R  
President and CEO  
R.A.I.N. Total Care, Inc.

Richard Keller  
President  
All Metro Health Care

Sherly Demosthenes-Atkinson  
Chief Executive Officer  
CABS Home Attendants Service, Inc.

Lisa Alli  
Vice President  
New York Foundation

Kenneth Block  
Managing Director  
CIDNY-Independent Living Service

Be-Jena R. Dumas  
Director  
School Settlement Home Attendant Service Corp.

Christine Sileo  
CEO  
Richmond Home Need Services, Inc.

Jennifer Brullo  
Senior Vice President, RN, MSN  
Partners in Care

Jasmin Arias  
VP, Chief Operating Officer  
Special Touch Home Care Services, Inc.

Josh Klein  
CEO  
The Royal Care inc.

Svetlana Goykhberg  
RN, MSA  
Services for the Aged D/B/A JASACare

Mary Winters  
Director Region Care

Evelyn Morales RN MPH  
CCM Administrator  
Home Health Services United Hebrew

Andrea Thomas  
Associate Executive Director of Home Care  
Sunnyside Citywide HC Services, Inc.

Richard Keller  
President  
All Metro Health Care

Judy Zangwill  
Executive Director  
Sunnyside Community Services

Jennifer Brullo  
Senior Vice President, RN, MSN  
Partners in Care

Belinda Bonaby  
Vice President of Home Care  
Best Choice Home Health Care

Betsy Jacobson  
Executive Director  
United Jewish of Eastside

Mary Winters  
Director Region Care
Russell Lusak
Chief Operating Officer
Selfhelp Community Services, Inc.