



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Long Term Care

JEFFERSON CITY – Missouri is among seven states to receive some help from the federal government to increase awareness about long-term care alternatives. The state recently received a \$1.6 million grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to help people with chronic illnesses or disabilities remain in their own homes and communities.

The state Division of Senior and Disability Services is partnering with the Missouri Hospital Association and local hospitals to use the grant money to develop a model for use in discharging patients from the hospital. This model will place greater emphasis on involving patients and their families in after-hospital care.

The grant money also will be used to set up an Aging and Disability Resource Center in northwest Missouri to make it easier to gather and distribute information about social services. The Resource Center will improve the ability of Area Agencies on Aging and Centers for Independent Living to share information by consolidating these services across the state.

It is important to make these decisions about post-hospital care ahead of time. Most people would prefer to remain in their own homes if at all possible, close to friends and family. Being able to receive care in a home setting is often a big factor in a person's quality of life.

This federal grant will help Missouri to provide long-term care services and supports to help people remain in their homes. Missouri lawmakers also provided some assistance last year by approving a law allowing Missourians to deduct 100 percent of the cost of their long-term care insurance.

Last week the state asked the federal government to approve a disaster declaration for 55 Missouri counties and the City of St. Louis for flooding and other weather damage caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ike. The severe weather of September 11-24 flooded more than 200 state routes, 2,900 homes and businesses, destroyed public infrastructure in many communities and caused four deaths. The state is requesting Individual Assistance for residents in Audrain, Lewis, Marion and Schuyler counties in northeast Missouri, and Public Assistance for communities in Adair, Audrain, Lewis, Ralls and Schuyler counties.

Damage to public infrastructure in the affected counties is estimated at more than \$11.8 million.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.