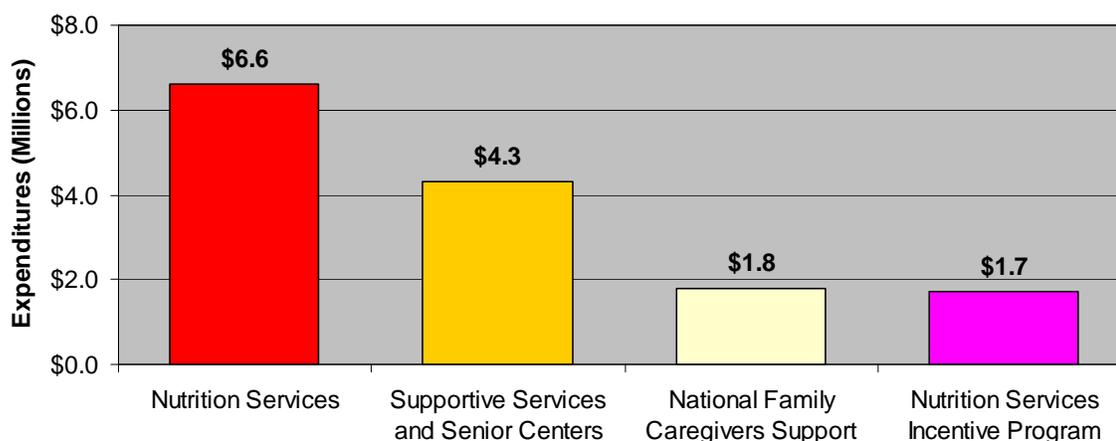


## Long-Term Care Reform in

# PUERTO RICO

In 2005, Puerto Rico's population age 65 and older totaled 489,819, accounting for 12.5 percent of the total population. Poverty is a major problem for older Puerto Ricans; more than 44 percent of persons age 65 and older live at or below the federal poverty level.

### Puerto Rico Spending on Home and Community-Based Services, in Millions, 2006



Puerto Rico spent more than \$15 million on non-Medicaid home and community-based services in 2006, which included \$6.6 million for nutrition services; \$4.3 million for supportive services and senior centers; \$1.8 million for National Family Caregivers support; and \$1.7 million for a Nutrition Services Incentive Program.<sup>1</sup>

## Major Initiatives

Puerto Rico's unit on aging is the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs. Major initiatives in Puerto Rico include a federal grant for support and services for people with Alzheimer's disease, caregiver support, and managed care for people who are both Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible.

**Alzheimer's Grant.** The Office of Elderly Affairs received a three-year federal demonstration grant in 2003 for Home and Community-Based Support Services for Hispanic Cultured Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Their Caregivers. The grant provides \$300,000 each year for respite, home health care, companionship, homemaker services, and case management. The grant has two primary goals: to develop and provide a comprehensive home-based support model for this population, and to improve the

<sup>1</sup> This profile is excerpted from the full report *A Balancing Act: State Long-Term Care Reform (#2008-10)*.

receptiveness of senior centers and the long-term care service network in Puerto Rico to persons with Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders.

**Caregiver Support.** Efforts to provide caregiver support in Puerto Rico have included pooling funds with Area Agencies on Aging to develop promotional materials and brochures for island-wide use, and developing a video, *Testimonials by Caregivers*, to disseminate to area agencies and nonprofit organizations. The program also targets program assistance to the island’s rural and functionally illiterate population.

**Managed Long-Term Care.** Puerto Rico has a Special Needs Plan (SNP) for Medicaid services for persons eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid (“dual-eligibles”), with an enrollment of approximately 147,000 dually eligible persons in 2007. A Special Needs Plan allows a state or territory to integrate care and benefits for certain populations.

***“Puerto Rico Initiatives”***

*Major initiatives in Puerto Rico include a federal grant for support and services for people with Alzheimer’s disease, caregiver support, and managed care for people who are both Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible.*