



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Elderly Waiver Program

What is the Elderly Waiver Program?

The Elderly Waiver program funds home and community-based services for people age 65 and older who are eligible for Medical Assistance and require the level of care provided in a nursing home but choose to live in the community. The Minnesota Department of Human Services operates the program under a federal waiver to Minnesota's Medicaid State Plan. Counties, tribal entities and health plan partners administer the program.

What types of services are available?

Covered services include:

- Adult day service
- Case management
- Chore services
- Companion services
- Consumer-directed community supports
- Home health aides
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker services
- Licensed community residential services, including customized living services, family and corporate foster care and residential care
- Changes to make homes and equipment accessible
- Personal care
- Respite care
- Skilled nursing
- Specialized equipment and supplies
- Personal emergency response systems
- Training and support for family caregivers
- Supports during transitions between different types of housing
- Nonmedical transportation

Who is eligible?

- Those eligible for the Elderly Waiver are 65 or older, eligible for Medical Assistance and in need of nursing home level of care as determined by the Long-Term Care Consultation process.
- The cost for a person's Elderly Waiver services cannot be greater than the estimated nursing home cost for that person.
- The person chooses to receive services in the community instead of nursing facility services.

How many people? How many dollars?

In fiscal year 2014, the program served 31,500 people at a total cost of \$355,672,529. Ninety-two percent of participants receive their services through a managed care organization. The managed care program options include the Minnesota Senior Health Options program, an integrated Medicaid/Medicare health and long-term care program, and Minnesota Senior Care Plus, a Medicaid health and long-term care option.

The average monthly participant population for fiscal year 2014 was 23,209 with an average monthly cost of \$1,509 under fee-for-service purchase and \$1,180 per participant per month under managed care.

What alternatives exist for people who are eligible for the Elderly Waiver?

Alternatives to the Elderly Waiver include Medicaid-certified skilled nursing facilities and certified board-and-care homes. The average cost of these alternative settings is \$5,476 per person, per month.

Where can I learn more about the Elderly Waiver?

More information is available on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website, mn.gov/dhs, and in [Minnesota Statutes 256B.0915](#). Information is also available by calling the Senior Linkage Line at 800-333-2433 or going to MinnesotaHelp.info.

How can I enroll?

Contract your [county or tribe](#) for a long-term care consultation. If you are already on Medical Assistance and enrolled in a health plan, you should contact your health plan.

This information is available in accessible formats for individuals with disabilities by calling 651-431-2400 (voice), toll-free 800-882-6262, or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.