



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Alternative Care Program

What is the Alternative Care Program?

The Alternative Care program provides services for eligible Minnesotans age 65 and over who require the level of care provided in a nursing home but choose to reside in the community.

By preventing and delaying transitions to a nursing facility, the program helps to prevent seniors from spending down their assets. Participants pay some of the cost of services with their own assets.

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
- Changes to make homes and equipment accessible
- Nutrition services
- Personal care
- Respite care
- Skilled nursing
- Specialized equipment and supplies
- Personal emergency response systems
- Training and support for family caregivers
- Nonmedical transportation

Who is eligible?

A person age 65 and older who is assessed through the Long-Term Care Consultation process is eligible for Alternative Care funding when the following criteria are met:

- The person has been determined to require the level of care provided to individuals in a nursing facility as determined by the Long-Term Care Consultation process.
- The person's income and assets would be inadequate to fund a nursing facility stay for more than 135 days.
- The monthly cost of the person's Alternative Care services must be less than 75 percent of the average Elderly Waiver Medicaid payment limit for people with a comparable case mix classification.
- The person chooses to receive home and community-based services instead of nursing facility services.
- The person pays the assessed monthly fee.
- No other funding source is available for the community services.

How many people? How many dollars?

In state fiscal year 2014, the Alternative Care program served an average of 3,978 people and spent a total of \$26.6 million. The average monthly cost per enrollee is \$770, based on an average monthly client population of 2,890. A sliding fee schedule requires a fee payment, by some enrollees, up to 30 percent of the monthly service costs.

What alternatives exist for people who are eligible?

Alternatives 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 Alternative Care program?

More information is available on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website, mn.gov/dhs, and in [Minnesota State Statutes 256B.0913](#). 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 800-747-5484 or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.