



## Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

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# 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 2015, the Alternative Care program served an average of 3,831 people and spent a total of \$28.9 million. The average monthly cost per enrollee is \$849, based on an average monthly client population of 2,724. 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 \$5,550 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](http://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](http://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.

For accessible formats of this publication or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to [dhs.info@state.mn.us](mailto:dhs.info@state.mn.us), call 651-431-2400 (voice), toll-free 800-747-5484, or use your preferred relay service.