

Home and Community-Based Services Licensure Requirements

February 2026

Overview

There are a wide variety of services available for people who are chronically ill, have a disability, or are elderly under the state-administered MA home and community-based waiver services programs. Generally, these services are licensed by either the Department of Human Services (DHS) or the Department of Health (MDH). License requirements vary by service type and are established in state law. This publication provides information on the programs and their licensure requirements.

Home and Community-based Services

Medical Assistance home and community-based services waivers allow for federal Medicaid reimbursement for certain services provided to people who are chronically ill, have a disability, or are elderly, which are not otherwise covered under the Medicaid program in the state plan.

Home and community-based waiver services (HCBS) help people remain in their homes and communities, rather than be institutionalized. These waivers allow Minnesota: (1) an alternative to placing Medicaid-eligible individuals in hospitals, nursing facilities, or intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled (ICF/DD); and (2) to provide services that are not covered, or are limited, under the traditional Medicaid program.

Medicaid home and community-based waivers were established under section 1915(c) of the federal Social Security Act of 1981. The waivers were intended to correct a bias toward institutional care in the Medicaid program. They allow states to offer a broad range of home and community-based services to people who may otherwise be institutionalized.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) currently administers the following five home and community-based waiver programs:¹

- **Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver.** This waiver is for people with developmental disabilities or a related condition who need the level of care provided in an ICF/DD.

¹ Minnesota also has a waiver agreement with the federal government in order to receive federal matching funds for the alternative care program. Alternative care provides home and community-based services to individuals with low levels of income and assets who are not MA enrollees, but who are at risk of nursing facility placement. The monthly cost of alternative care services must not exceed 75 percent of the MA payment rate for nursing care for the person's case mix classification. Alternative care was a state-funded program until fiscal year 2014, when the state began receiving federal MA funding as well.

- **Community Alternative Care (CAC) Waiver.** This waiver is for people who have a chronic illness and need the level of care provided in a hospital.
- **Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) Waiver.** This waiver is for people who have a disability and require the level of care provided in a nursing home.
- **Brain Injury (BI) Waiver.** This waiver is for people with a traumatic or acquired brain injury who need the level of care provided in: (1) a nursing home that provides specialized services for people with a brain injury; or (2) a neurobehavioral hospital.
- **Elderly Waiver.** This waiver is for people who are over 65 years old and need the level of care provided in a nursing facility.

Many of the services provided under the MA home and community-based services waivers must be licensed under [Minnesota Statutes, chapter 144A](#) (Nursing Homes and Home Care), [chapter 245A](#) (Human Services Licensing), or [chapter 245D](#) (Home and Community-Based Services Standards). Generally, service providers must meet additional requirements such as conducting background studies on direct support staff and specified reporting requirements.

The services provided under the MA home and community-based services waivers are a mix of direct delivery services and purchased item services. Direct delivery services involve a provider delivering services directly to a person. Purchased item services allow a person to purchase specific goods or items (such as a personal emergency response system).

The table on the following page lists the services provided under the MA home and community-based services waivers and provides information regarding the waivers each service is provided under, licensure requirements, exclusions from licensure, and additional information about certain services.

Other Resources

For more information on HCBS see the following House Research Department publications:

- [Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Waiver Programs](#)
- [Overview of Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Waivered Services](#)
- [Home and Community-Based Services Standards](#)

Home and Community-based Services Licensure Requirements, by Service

Service	Service Description	Waiver	License Requirements	Exclusions from Licensure	Additional Notes
24-Hour Emergency Assistance	This service provides on-call counseling and problem solving and/or immediate response for assistance at a person's home, and personal emergency response system installation, testing, and monitoring.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	24-hour emergency assistance nonequipment providers must be licensed under ch. 245D as basic support services providers; or under ch. 144A with a home and community-based services designation.	Individual providers who meet requirements for exclusion from 245D licensure. ²	24-hour emergency assistance equipment is a purchased item service.
Adult Companion Services	This service provides in-person or remote assistance or supervision with tasks that help the recipient work toward a therapeutic or community integration goal.	EW	Be licensed under ch. 245D as a basic support provider or ch. 144A with a home and community-based services designation, or be in an adult companion program under the Corporation for National and Community Service's Senior Companion Program.	Related or unrelated persons who meet the requirements for exclusion from 245D licensure in certain situations.	—
Adult Day Services	This service provides an individualized program of activities designed to meet the assessed health and social needs of an adult outside their residence during the day.	BI, CADI, DD, & EW	Be licensed under ch. 245A and comply with adult day services licensure rules (Minn. Rules 9555.9600 to 9555.9730).	—	Nursing facilities, hospitals, or boarding care settings may provide adult day services under their facility license in certain situations.

² An individual provider who delivers 24-hour emergency assistance, adult companion services, certain homemaker services, individual community living supports, individualized home supports without training, night supervision, or respite care may be excluded from ch. 245D licensure. However, these providers must enroll with DHS as an MA provider, meet the service-specific definition and provider standards and qualifications, and meet certain other requirements of ch. 245D. See Minn. Stat. § 245A.03, subd. 2.

Service	Service Description	Waiver	License Requirements	Exclusions from Licensure	Additional Notes
Adult Day Services Bath	This service covers a bath in an adult day services setting if it is not able to occur in a person's home.	BI, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	This is a DHS enrollment-required service. Adult day services bath may be provided by adult day centers, Family Adult Day Services (FADS) providers, hospitals, medical clinics, and nursing facilities.
Adult Foster Care	This service covers the provision of protection, supervision, household services, and living skills assistance.	EW	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support service provider or ch. 245A and meet current foster care licensure requirements, or receive county certification of relative.	The county may certify a person who is exempt from licensure under § 245A.03, subd. 2, to provide adult foster care to a related person on EW.	The adult foster care service can only be provided in settings licensed as an adult foster care setting or community residential setting.
Assistive Technology	This service covers an assessment of the person's need for assistive devices and equipment including equipment rental during a trial period, customization, training, technical assistance, maintenance, and ongoing training and evaluation.	DD	The person who assesses the person's need for assistive technology must be a licensed physician, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, or a speech-language pathologist; or have a specified certification relating to assistive technology.	—	Assistive technology equipment is a purchased item service. Assistive technology is available under BI, CAC, CADI, and EW through specialized equipment and supplies (see below).

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Caregiver Living Expenses	This service provides for a portion of rent and food attributed to the live-in, unrelated caregiver when the caregiver also provides an approved service.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	—	—	The live-in, unrelated caregiver must meet the provider standards and qualifications for the approved waiver service they provide. Approved services include consumer-directed community supports, extended home care nursing, extended personal care assistance, individualized home supports with training, and individualized home supports without training.
Case Management	Case managers work with people to understand their needs, make plans with them to help them meet their needs and goals, connect them with services, keep track of their progress, and follow up with others who are helping them.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	<p>Lead agencies may contract with a public health nurse, registered nurse, or social worker to provide case management services under the waivers.</p> <p>There are various requirements laid out for case managers related to education and experience.</p> <p>For services provided by Tribal governments, alternative credentialing standards under § 256B.02, subd. 7, may be applied.</p> <p>A case manager who works with a person on the BI, CAC, CADI, or DD waiver must annually complete 20 hours of case management education and disability-related training.</p>

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Chore Services	This service provides assistance to a person or their primary caregiver to help maintain a clean, sanitary, and safe environment.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	Chore services are direct delivery services. Structural pest control applicators must meet the licensing requirements under Minn. Stat. ch. 18B.
Community Residential Services (CRS)	This service covers training and/or habilitation, ongoing residential care, and support services that are based on the person's needs.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	There is a licensing moratorium affecting new adult and child CRS development. ³
Consumer-Directed Community Supports (CDCS)	This is a service option that gives the person receiving services the flexibility and responsibility to direct his or her own services and supports.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	CDCS may include traditional goods and services and self-designed services.
Crisis Respite Care	This service provides both short-term care and intervention to a person due to the need for relief and support of the caregivers, protection of the person or others living with the person, and specific behavioral or medical interventions to meet the person's crisis-related needs.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support service provider.	—	Must have the specific experience, skills, and qualifications required to meet the person's behavioral and medical needs.

³ See Minn. Stat. § 245A.03, subd. 7.

Service	Service Description	Waiver	License Requirements	Exclusions from Licensure	Additional Notes
Customized Living/24-Hour Customized Living	These services include the following component services designed to meet the person's needs and goals: activities of daily living assistance; assistance with mental health, cognitive, or behavioral concerns; health-related assistance; home management tasks; nonmedical transportation; and socialization.	BI, CADI, & EW	Be licensed as an assisted living facility under ch. 144G or a comprehensive home care provider under ch. 144A and delivering services in an affordable housing setting.	—	There are additional requirements along with size and age limitations for customized living services provided under the BI and CADI waivers. Finally, there is a customized living setting moratorium under the BI and CADI waivers. ⁴
Day Support Services	This service provides education and development of essential and personally enriching life skills that support a person's community relationships, involvement, and inclusion.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	—
Employment Development Services	These services are designed to help a person achieve competitive, integrated employment; become self-employed; or establish a microenterprise business.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	—

⁴ See Minn. Stat. § 256B.49, subd. 28.

Service	Service Description	Waiver	License Requirements	Exclusions from Licensure	Additional Notes
Employment Exploration Services	This service helps a person gain a better understanding of competitive, integrated employment opportunities in their community by providing individualized educational activities, learning opportunities, work experiences, and additional related services.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	—
Employment Support Services	This service provides services and supports to help people maintain paid employment in community businesses.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	—
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations	This service provides home and vehicle modification assessments and installations.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	Disability waiver limit of \$40,000. EW annual limit of \$21,199.
Extended Home Care Services	These services include home care nursing, home health aide, and home health therapies but are allowed to exceed the limits on the amount, duration, and frequency under the MA state plan.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	Provider standards and qualifications for extended home care services are the same as for MA state plan home care services. ⁵

⁵ In general, home care providers must meet the licensure requirements under Minn. Stat. ch. 144A.

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Extended Personal Care Assistance (PCA)/Community First Services and Supports (CFSS)	This service includes PCA/CFSS but is allowed to exceed the limits on the amount, duration, and frequency under the MA state plan.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	Provider standards and qualifications for extended PCA/CFSS are the same as for MA state plan PCA/CFSS services. ⁶
Family Adult Day Services (FADS)	This service provides adult day services in a family foster care license holder's primary residence.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	Be licensed as an adult foster care home under ch. 245A and comply with family adult day services requirements, or be licensed as a family adult day services provider under § 245A.143.	—	There are additional requirements for services provided under BI, CAC, CADI, and DD waivers.
Family Caregiver Services	This service provides caregiver counseling and caregiver training to a person who lives with or routinely provides care to the person receiving services.	EW	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	Caregiver counseling and training may be provided to informal caregivers if they provide direct and ongoing care and support.

⁶ PCA and CFSS are unlicensed services; however, personal care assistants and support workers must enroll with DHS after clearing a background study and meet other specified requirements under Minn. Stat. §§ 256B.0659 and 256B.85. PCA agencies and CFSS agency-providers must also enroll with DHS and meet additional requirements under Minn. Stat. §§ 256B.0659 and 256B.85.

Service	Service Description	Waiver	License Requirements	Exclusions from Licensure	Additional Notes
Family Training and Counseling	This service provides professional instruction and guidance to the person and their family in specified areas including developing self-advocacy skills, learning about interventions and supports, communication techniques, and problem solving.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Counseling may be provided by licensed and/or qualified mental health professionals, nutritional therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, licensed physicians, registered nurses and public health nurses, social workers, speech-language pathologists, and Medicare-certified home health agencies that employ certain qualified professionals.	—	<p>The case manager must ensure individuals, agencies, or educational facilities that offer training have demonstrated expertise, perform the duties expected, and provide a cost-effective, appropriate means of meeting training needs.</p> <p>Training on the use of medical equipment may be provided by medical equipment suppliers enrolled as Medicaid providers.</p>
Family Residential Services	Family residential services include services that provide training and/or habilitation, ongoing residential care, and supportive services.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	The requirements for the setting license are different for adults and children.

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Home-Delivered Meals	This service provides appropriate, nutritionally balanced meals that are delivered to the person's home.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	A licensed dietician or licensed nutritionist must review and approve menu plans.	—	Home-delivered meals may be provided by hospitals, restaurants, schools, and others that provide home-delivered meals and meet additional standards including: complying with state and local health regulations and ordinances related to food preparation, handling, and serving; using insulated hot and cold containers to ensure food is delivered at appropriate temperatures; ensuring the meal meets certain dietary requirements; and modifying the meal, as necessary, to meet the person's dietary requirements.
Homemaker Services	This service helps a person manage general cleaning and household activities.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	Homemaker home management and homemaker assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) providers must be licensed under ch. 245D as basic support services providers or ch. 144A with a home and community-based services designation.	A person who receives homemaker home management or homemaker assistance with ADLs may use an individual provider who meets requirements for exclusion from 245D licensure.	Homemaker cleaning services are direct-delivery services. Counties and Tribal nations may approve non-enrolled vendors who meet state service standards to deliver homemaker cleaning services.

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Independent Living Skills Therapies	This service covers art therapy, music therapy, and recreational therapy.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	—	—	A therapist must hold the specified registration or certification for their field and meet specified education requirements.
Individual Community Living Supports (ICLS)	This service provides assistance and support for older adults who need reminders, cues, intermittent or moderate supervision, or physical assistance to remain in their own homes.	EW	Be licensed under ch. 245D as a basic support services provider or ch. 144A as a comprehensive home care provider with a home and community-based services designation, or meet one of the three requirements for nonagency providers.	—	A nonagency provider must enroll with DHS as an individual provider licensed under ch. 245D as a basic support services provider, enroll with DHS as an unlicensed individual provider, or become an employee of a 245D licensed ICLS provider.
Individualized Home Supports (IHS)	This service provides support and/or training in the following community living service categories: community participation; health, safety, and wellness; household management; and adaptive skills.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Providers of IHS with training and IHS with family training must be licensed under ch. 245D as intensive support services providers. A provider of IHS without training must be licensed under ch. 245D as a basic support services provider or ch. 144A with a home and community-based services designation, or be in an adult companion program under	A person who receives IHS without training may use an individual provider who meets requirements for exclusion from 245D licensure.	—

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			AmeriCorps Seniors – Senior Companion Program.		
Integrated Community Supports (ICS)	This service provides support and training to adults age 18 and older who reside in a living unit of a provider-controlled ICS setting in the following community living service categories: community participation; health, safety, and wellness; household management; and adaptive skills.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	Additional setting requirements must be met including submission of a setting capacity report and meeting capacity limits.
Night Supervision	This service provides overnight assistance and supervision provided by staff in the person’s own home when the person has a specific assessed need.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as a basic support services provider; or ch. 144A with a home and community-based services designation.	Individual providers who meet requirements for exclusion from 245D licensure.	—
Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS)	This service covers an electronic device that includes an alert or panic button the person can press in the event of a fall or other emergency and installation and monitoring of the device.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	This is a purchased item service. The following providers may enroll with Minnesota Health Care Programs to provide PERS equipment and related services: (1) lead agencies; (2) state plan medical equipment providers; (3) pharmacies licensed by the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy; and (4) Medicare-certified home health agencies.

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Positive Support Services	This service uses strategies to teach new skills and change a person's environment to increase quality of life and decrease challenging behavior.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	—
Prevocational Services	These services provide work-skills training and support services to advance people toward competitively paid employment.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	—
Respite Care	This service provides short-term care to a person when their primary care person is absent or needs relief.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	For in-home respite, be licensed under ch. 245D as a basic support services provider; or ch. 144A with a home and community-based services designation.	A person who receives in-home respite or out-of-home respite in an unlicensed setting may use an individual provider who meets the requirements for exclusion from 245D licensure.	There are various age and licensure requirements for out-of-home respite care depending on the setting in which the respite care is being provided.
Specialist Services	This service is designed to promote, support, and augment staff and caregiver competency to meet a person's needs in augmentative communication, behavior and mental health symptom support, community safety training and support,	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	Be licensed under ch. 245D as an intensive support services provider.	—	—

Service	Service Description	Waiver	License Requirements	Exclusions from Licensure	Additional Notes
	functional motor skills, personal health, skills to live independently, or social, leisure, and recreational skills.				
Specialized Equipment and Supplies	This service covers devices, controls, medical appliances, or supplies specified in a person's support plan.	BI, CAC, CADI, & EW	—	—	The following providers may enroll with Minnesota Health Care Programs to provide specialized equipment and supplies: (1) lead agencies; (2) state plan medical equipment providers; (3) pharmacies licensed by the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy; and (4) Medicare-certified home health agencies.
Transitional Services	This service covers items and expenses necessary and reasonable for a person to transition from an eligible setting to their own home or an integrated community supports setting.	BI, CAC, CADI, & DD	—	—	Transitional services are purchased item services. Providers must maintain all applicable licenses, permits, and registrations required for their business and provide services in a cost-effective and appropriate way.
Transitional Services	This service covers items and supports necessary for a person to move from a licensed setting to independent or semi-independent community-based housing.	EW	—	—	Transitional services are purchased item services. The lead agency must determine that the provider meets certain requirements related to knowledge of: housing options, disabilities and chronic illnesses and their effect on a person's ability to live independently in

Service	Service Description	Waiver	License Requirements	Exclusions from Licensure	Additional Notes
					the community, and housing procurement processes and funding mechanisms.
Transportation	This service covers transportation services necessary to meet a person’s needs and preferences when it is necessary for the person to gain access to waiver services, community services, activities and resources, and employment.	BI, CAC, CADI, DD, & EW	—	—	<p>There are three types of transportation providers: common carrier, individual driver, and special transportation. These transportation providers are regulated by entities outside of DHS.</p> <p>Common carrier and individual driver services must meet certain qualifications that must be verified by the lead agency.</p> <p>Special transportation providers must meet the same qualifications as the other transportation services and enroll with DHS. In addition, drivers must be certified by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.⁷</p>

Source: Department of Human Services, Community-Based Services Manual (accessed on the DHS website on November 14 and December 15, 2025).



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⁷ Special transportation service providers must meet requirements set forth by the commissioner of transportation, including displaying a decal issued to special transportation service providers with a current certificate of compliance. See Minn. Stat. §§ 174.29 to 174.315.