

Community First Services and Supports (CFSS)

October 2021

What are community first services and supports?

The Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) program was created by the 2013 Legislature (see [Minn. Stat. § 256B.85](#)) and will replace the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program and consumer support grants. CFSS will be available statewide to eligible individuals to provide assistance and support to persons with disabilities, the elderly, and others with special health care needs living independently in the community.

CFSS will be a federal-state funded service, with 50 percent paid with federal Medical Assistance (MA) funds and 50 percent paid with state general funds. CFSS will be phased in beginning in June 2022.

How does CFSS differ from the PCA program?

CFSS is intended to be more accessible and flexible than the PCA program. CFSS will prevent or delay future institutional admissions and support community living. CFSS will assist participants to recover and/or gain skills to increase and maintain community stability, use technology or home modifications to decrease the need for human assistance when appropriate, avoid the use of inappropriate services, and increasingly direct their own services. CFSS will allow for testing of innovative models of coordinating services for children receiving services across home, school, and community environments.

CFSS changes the structure of fiscal support entities under the PCA program to support people hiring and directing their own staff. CFSS includes a budget model that allows participants to exercise more responsibility and control over the services and supports described and budgeted within the CFSS service-delivery plan. An agency-provider model is available for participants who are unable to direct their own services.

Who will be eligible for CFSS?

CFSS is available to a person who meets one of the following criteria:

- is an MA enrollee, except for MA enrollees who are eligible for home care services coverage under Medicare;
- is a participant in the alternative care program;
- is an MA waiver recipient (elderly waiver, developmental disabilities waiver, brain injury waiver, community alternative care waiver, or community alternatives for disabled individuals waiver); or
- has medical services identified in a participant's individualized education program and is eligible for MA special education services.

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria above, a person must also:

- require assistance and be determined dependent in one activity of daily living (ADL) or Level I behavior based on an assessment; and
- not be a family support grant recipient.

What services will be provided?

CFSS services include:

- assistance with ADLs, including eating, toileting, grooming, dressing, bathing, mobility, positioning, and transferring;
- assistance with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), such as meal planning, preparation, and cooking; shopping for food, clothing, or other essential items; laundry; housecleaning; assistance with medications; managing finances; communicating needs and preferences during activities; arranging supports; and assistance with traveling around and participating in the community;
- assistance with health-related procedures and tasks that can be taught or assigned by a state-licensed health care or mental health professional and performed by a support worker;
- assistance to acquire, maintain, or enhance the skills necessary for the participant to accomplish ADLs, IADLs, or health-related procedures and tasks;
- expenditures for items, services, supports, environmental modifications, or goods, including assistive technology;
- observation and redirection for behavior or symptoms when there is a need for assistance;
- back-up systems or mechanisms, such as the use of pagers or other electronic devices, to ensure continuity of the participant's services and supports;
- services provided by a consultation services provider under contract with DHS and enrolled as a Minnesota health care program provider;
- services provided by a financial management services provider;
- services of up to 40 hours per seven-day period provided by a support worker who is a parent, step-parent, or legal guardian of a participant who is under age 18, or who is the participant's spouse, regardless of the number of parents providing services, combination of parents and spouses providing services, or number of children who receive MA services; and
- worker training and development services.

Who will provide CFSS services?

CFSS will be provided by support workers who will be employed by agency providers or the participant. Support workers must enroll with the Department of Human Services, complete a background study, and meet all other requirements. Agency providers must be MA-enrolled health care program providers and meet all applicable provider standards and requirements, including compliance with background study requirements, reporting maltreatment of minors and vulnerable adults, providing the participant with service-related rights, and verifying and maintaining records of all services and expenditures by the participant.

What are some recent legislative changes?

Since its enactment in 2013, the statute governing CFSS has been amended several times as DHS has sought federal approval for this program under Medicaid. Some of the changes have included modifications to definitions, eligibility, assessment requirements, service authorization requirements, provider qualifications, and covered services.



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