

Elderly Waiver program

What is the Elderly Waiver program?

The Elderly Waiver program funds home and community-based services for people aged 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 managed care organizations administer the program.

What types of services are available?

Covered services include:

- [Adult companion services](#)
- [Adult day services](#)
- [Adult day services bath](#)
- [Adult foster care](#)
- [Case management/care coordination](#)
- [Chore services](#)
- [Consumer-directed community supports \(CDCS\)](#)
- [Customized living/24-hour customized living](#)
- [Environmental accessibility adaptations](#)
(changes to make homes and vehicles accessible)
- [Extended home care services](#)
- [Extended personal care assistance/Extended community first services and supports](#)
- [Family adult day services \(FADS\)](#)
- [Family caregiver services](#)
- [Home-delivered meals](#)
- [Homemaker](#)
- [Individual community living supports \(ICLS\)](#)
- [Personal emergency response systems \(PERS\)](#)
- [Respite](#)
- [Specialized equipment and supplies](#)
- [Transitional services](#)
- [Transportation](#) (non-medical)

Who is eligible?

A person aged 65 or older is eligible for the Elderly Waiver program when they meet the following criteria:

- The person is eligible for Medical Assistance and requires the level of care provided to individuals in a nursing home as determined by a MnCHOICES assessment.
- The cost for a person's Elderly Waiver services is less than the estimated nursing home cost for that person.

- The person chooses to receive Elderly Waiver services in the community instead of nursing home services.

How many people? How many dollars?

In state fiscal year 2024, the program served 33,934 people at a total cost of \$719.3 million. The average monthly participant population for fiscal year 2024 was 28,773 with an average monthly cost of \$2,083.

Approximately ninety percent of participants receive their services through a managed care organization. Managed care program options include:

- Minnesota Senior Health Options, an integrated Medicaid/Medicare health and long-term care program
- Minnesota Senior Care Plus, a Medicaid health and long-term care option.

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 \$8716 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 256S](#). Information is also available by calling the Senior LinkAge Line at 800-333-2433 or going to MinnesotaHelp.info.

How can I enroll?

Contact your [county or tribal nation](#) for a MnCHOICES assessment. If you are already on Medical Assistance and enrolled in a health plan, you should contact your health plan.



For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, email us at dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-2400, or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (3-24)