

MassHealth Community Care Programs To Avoid Nursing Home Placement

Personal Care Attendant Program: PCA

Medicaid funded; pays for home care services for consumers who need daily assistance with ADLs. Participant's monthly income must be less than \$1,201 / month and:

1. have MassHealth Standard, or CommonHealth
2. permanent/chronic disability or medical condition
3. need personal care
4. need assistance with at least 2 ADLs
5. live in the community (at home)
6. physician who will sign referral for services
7. able to self direct care, hire/fire/direct the PCA worker
8. have a surrogate who can act as the PCA's 'employer' (supervise time slips)

A nursing and OT assessment determines a care plan (number of hours) which is submitted to Boston for approval. Care plans can increase or decrease, depending on need or changing medical conditions. Time lines run @ 4-6 weeks from date of application to Boston's approval. The MassHealth consumer hires their own worker whose time slips are submitted to a fiduciary who cuts a payroll check to the PCA worker, withholding taxes and issuing a tax forms at year end'.

Recent regulation changes allow you to hire a son, daughter or any family member, except your spouse.

NOTE: recent budget cuts have impacted this program. All current care plans are being reviewed, many reduced. Applicant can be approved if he/she needs a substantial number of hours per week..

Adult Family Care: AFC

formerly known as Adult Foster Care, Caregiver Homes

For people who cannot safely live alone. Like foster care for children, the elder is matched with a "host" family. Nursing assessment determines level of need; social workers support the host and participant. New regs have improved access to made this program more viable:

1. son, daughter or any family member (except spouse) can be the host provider.
2. elder can move in with the host provider, or a host can move in with the elder.
3. higher income allowed for participants who are frail enough to qualify for the frail elder waiver.

The AFC participant must be:

- 16 or older and have
- MassHealth Standard & ongoing medical need

The AFC host/provider must be:

- 18 or older
- maintain a private home in good repair and of sufficient size to accommodate both the AFC participant(s) and other residents of the home
- complete a physical exam including a TB test
- physically able to supervise and/or provide hands on care to AFC participant(s) and to assist with meal prep, transportation to doctor appointments, provide Rx monitoring and personal care.
- respect participant's right to make decisions
- pass a CORI check
- willing to work with ASAP program administrator

Benefits:

1. tax-free stipend
2. if care is provided in your home, additional payments of \$15 per day for room and board.
3. training, and support by RN and SW
4. 24/7 on-call support



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Senior Care Options: SCO

Combining Medicare with Medicaid

This Medicaid/Medicare funded program provides services, benefits and treatments authorized by your primary care physician, or your "primary care team".

There are no co-pays, deductibles or other fees and no out of pocket expenses. Your doctors must be part of the SCO provider network.

Services can include:

- ✓ urgent care
- ✓ outpatient
- ✓ inpatient, including nursing home care
- ✓ out patient/in patient surgery
- ✓ home care
- ✓ hospice
- ✓ behavioral health
- ✓ dental
- ✓ PCA program/services
- ✓ prescriptions
- ✓ preventive care
- ✓ transportation, chores, day care, accessibility adaptations, life lines, companion services *any and all services ordered by your PCP or your "team"

To be eligible, a participant must be:

1. MassHealth Standard eligible, or MassHealth Standard (\$923/month income) and Medicare
2. at least 65 years old
3. Massachusetts resident, living in a SCO's service area.

There are several SCOs in Massachusetts including Commonwealth Alliance and EverCare [SCO service area information](#); [SCO Brochure](#)

Telephone: 1-888-885-0484

MassHealth CHOICES

CHOICES is a program designed to provide as much support/services as needed for MassHealth consumers who are clinically frail enough to qualify for the waiver. It should be noted that recent cuts in State funding have impacted the utilization of this program. CHOICES was designed to provide an alternative to nursing home placement, and can work in combination with other MassHealth, Medicare and Veterans funded services. In theory, CHOICES could be utilized to provide 24/7 care at home.

To qualify, a participant must be:

1. 60 or older*
2. have MassHealth Standard
3. frail enough to qualify for the waiver
4. be an ASAP client

To be waived:

1. elder must be nursing home appropriate
2. elder at imminent danger of nursing home placement...or wish to be discharged from a nursing home, but need substantial home care.

NOTE: if over income for MassHealth Standard, you can meet a deductible, but this must be done every 6 months and your deductible will be calculated based on 'spending down' to \$520 per month. Remember that clinical eligibility is also necessary, and must be determined by your ASAP or SCO.

*If you are 60-65 and filing a SMBR, you must include a disability supplement, unless you are already qualified as disabled by MassHealth.

[MassHealth and You Part II](#)



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