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DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
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## **MI Choice Services in Licensed Settings: Expanding the Housing Options for Long-Term Care Beneficiaries September, 2009**

### **Purpose**

The Department of Community Health's MI Choice waiver program now provides services in licensed settings (Adult Foster Care homes and Homes for the Aged). The purpose is to expand the array of options for individuals who need long-term care services. These options are essential to building a responsive, effective and efficient long-term care system.

### **What is MI Choice?**

MI Choice is a Medicaid program that provides home and community-based long-term care services to individuals who are elderly or physically disabled. The program supports individuals who would otherwise need nursing facility services. Applicants for MI Choice services must meet financial and medical eligibility criteria and require at least one MI Choice service on a regular basis. Financial eligibility is determined by the local Department of Human Services office. Medical eligibility is determined by the local MI Choice waiver agent using the state's Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination process.

Each MI Choice participant receives assistance from a Supports Coordinator and has access to a variety of supports and services designed to enable the person to remain in his or her home or other non-institutional setting. These may include assistance with activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, eating, etc.), specialized medical equipment and supplies, adult day care, counseling, training and other services.

### **What licensed settings are included?**

MI Choice participants can now receive services in a home licensed by the Department of Human Services as an Adult Foster Care (AFC) or a Home for the Aged (HFA). The participant is responsible for paying the room and board costs. MI Choice provides services in addition to the usual and customary care required of a licensed home, but does not provide the continuous nursing care available in nursing facilities. Residents enrolled in MI Choice would no longer be eligible for the Personal Care Supplement currently available to AFC residents.

The MI Choice participant, along with the waiver agent and AFC or HFA operator will develop a plan of care that addresses the participant's unique needs. In most cases, the AFC or HFA will be the service provider, unless the resident, Supports Coordinator and home operator agree to services from an outside provider. The MI Choice waiver agent and the AFC/HFA will enter into a contractual agreement for billing and payment purposes.

## **Candidates for MI Choice services in licensed settings**

All individuals eligible for the MI Choice waiver have the option of receiving services in a licensed setting. Whether an AFC or HFA is the best option is a decision the individual would make through a person-centered planning process. In this process, the individual would clarify his or her goals and preferences and decide how those can best be met. The options of living in one's home, living in an AFC or HFA or living in a nursing facility each provide different opportunities for personal choice, services and supports, community involvement, personal safety, companionship and other aspects of adult life.

The MI Choice waiver agents and others are providing information to individuals, families and providers about this new option. Audiences for this information include:

1. Nursing facility residents who want to return to community living and whose needs can best be met in a group living arrangement.
2. Current AFC or HFA residents whose needs have increased beyond the home's capacity support them.
3. Current MI Choice participants residing in a home or apartment who could benefit from the additional services offered in a licensed setting.
4. Individuals and families planning for long-term care services.
5. Providers who support individuals with long-term care needs.

Persons seeking MI Choice services should contact the local waiver agency. Due to limited funding, applicants may be placed on a waiting list for services. Individuals transitioning from nursing facilities are given priority within the waiting list.

## **For more information**

To locate a MI Choice waiver agent, go to the website: [www.michigan.gov/ltc](http://www.michigan.gov/ltc)  
Find MI Choice waiver agents under "Quick Links".

To learn about local AFC and HFAs, go to the website: [www.michigan.gov/afchfa](http://www.michigan.gov/afchfa)