

Community Options for Long-Term Care

This document provides information for Local Contact Agencies to offer to nursing home residents regarding programs that provide long-term care services in the home and other community settings.

Home and Community-Based Services

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has five Medicaid programs that offer services to eligible persons in the home or other community setting: Home Health, Home Help, Home and Community-Based Waiver for Elderly and Disabled (MI Choice), the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and Hospice.

Home Health provides in-home skilled nursing services and associated personal care from qualified nurses and home health aides.

Home Help provides unskilled personal services such as meal preparation, assistance with eating, grooming, laundry, shopping and moving about the home.

MI Choice provides services such as personal care, transportation, private duty nursing, meal preparation and routine household care to allow an individual to remain in his or her home. MI Choice services can also be provided in Adult Foster Care homes and Homes for the Aged when a person's care needs are greater than what the home typically provides.

PACE provides comprehensive medical and long-term care services to program enrollees who are 55 years of age or older. (Available in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Muskegon and Battle Creek)

Hospice offers end-of-life care, usually provided in the home. In some cases care may also be provided in a residential facility such as a nursing home. Support is provided for the family through counseling, and for the individual with skilled nursing services, pain management and personal care.

Nursing Facility Transition Services

Transition services are provided by MI Choice waiver agencies and Centers for Independent Living. Transition services are provided to Medicaid eligible nursing facility residents who want to return to community living but need help resolving barriers. This may include assistance with finding housing, making an existing home more accessible, purchasing household supplies or special equipment, or arranging services. Transition service planning is person-centered to ensure the individual's choices, needs and concerns are addressed.

Program Eligibility and Informed Choice

Eligibility for long-term care services is determined by assessing your medical needs and functional abilities, and looking at financial criteria. MI Choice and PACE use Michigan's Medicaid Nursing Facility Level of Care Determination to identify eligibility. Financial eligibility is determined by your local Department of Human Services (DHS) office. If you are determined eligible for services, you will be informed of program options. If you are determined ineligible, you will be informed of other services in your community that may help you. You will also be informed of your right to appeal a determination of ineligibility. Contact your local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) or community service organization for more information about all program options.

Long-Term Care Resources

For information on moving to the community from a nursing home, call:

Michigan's State Office of Services to the Aging at 517-373-8230 to locate your regional AAA. AAAs can help identify local resources for in-home and community support services. AAAs provide services in county or regional areas.

Centers for Independent Living (CIL) are regional organizations that provide services to help people with disabilities stay in the community. To find a local CIL call toll-free 1-888-255-2457.

Other Resources

MMAP is the Michigan Medicare and Medicaid Assistance Program that offers free counseling and education on Medicare and Medicaid benefits. You can contact MMAP toll-free at 1-800-803-7174 or on the web at www.mmapinc.org.

MISeniors is Michigan's Office of Services to the Aging website found at www.michigan.gov/miseniors. The website lists support services for seniors, housing options, information on nutrition and health care providers.

The Department of Human Services - DHS is a State of Michigan agency that provides information on independent living, senior services, adult community placement and medical services. To locate county DHS offices, call 517-373-2035, or select 'County Offices' from their website at www.michigan.gov/dhs.

Agencies Offering Advocacy and Additional Information

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service advocates for people with disabilities, call toll-free 1-800-288-5923.

State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program advocates for residents of licensed nursing homes, Adult Foster Care, Homes for the Aged, call toll-free 1-866-485-9393.

Citizens for Better Care advocates for long-term care consumers, call toll-free 1-800-833-9548.

Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors offers free legal advice, call toll-free 1-800-347-5297.

MI.LawHelp.org is an online guide to free and low-cost civil legal services. Select 'Legal aid directory' for legal aid offices in Michigan.

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