

Alternative Care program

What is the Alternative Care program?

The Alternative Care program provides services for eligible Minnesotans age 65 and over who require the level of care provided in a nursing home but choose to reside in the community.

By preventing and delaying transitions to a nursing facility, the program helps to prevent seniors from spending down their assets. Participants pay some of the cost of services with their own assets.

What types of services are available?

Covered services include:

- Adult day service
- Case management
- Changes to make homes and equipment accessible
- Chore services
- Companion services
- Consumer-directed community supports
- Home health aides
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker services
- Individual Community Living Support (ICLS)
- Nonmedical transportation
- Nutrition services
- Personal care
- Personal emergency response systems
- Respite care
- Skilled nursing
- Specialized equipment and supplies
- Training and support for family caregivers

Who is eligible?

A person age 65 and older who is assessed through the Long-Term Care Consultation process is eligible for Alternative Care funding when the following criteria are met:

- The person has been determined to require the level of care provided to individuals in a nursing facility as determined by the Long-Term Care Consultation process.
- The person's income and assets would be inadequate to fund a nursing facility stay for more than 135 days.
- The monthly cost of the person's Alternative Care services must be less than 75 percent of the Elderly Waiver Medicaid payment limit for people with a comparable case mix classification.
- The person chooses to receive home and community-based services instead of nursing facility services.
- The person pays the assessed monthly fee.
- No other funding source is available for the community services.

How many people? How many dollars?

In state fiscal year 2018, the Alternative Care program served a total of 3,711 people and spent a total of \$30.4 million. The average monthly cost per enrollee is \$990, based on an average monthly client population of 2,579. A sliding fee schedule requires some enrollees to pay a fee of up to 30 percent of the monthly service costs.

What alternatives exist for people who are eligible?

Alternatives include Medicaid-certified skilled nursing facilities and certified board-and-care homes. The average cost of these alternative settings is \$6,783 per person per month.

Where can I learn more about the Alternative Care program?

More information is available on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website, mn.gov/dhs, and in [Minnesota Statutes 256B.0913](#). 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 tribe](#) for a Long-Term Care Consultation.



For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-2400, toll-free 800-747-5484 or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (1-18)