



Community Alternative Care waiver supports people who are chronically ill

Children and adults who are chronically ill and require hospital level of care may be eligible for help. Instead of receiving care in a hospital, people can receive services in the community. It might be the person's own home, biological or adoptive parent's home, home of relatives (e.g., sibling, aunt, grandparent, etc.), family foster care home or corporate foster care home. If married, a person may receive services while living at home with his or her spouse. The Community Alternative Care (CAC) waiver supports these options.

In state fiscal year 2018 an average of 498 people were served on the CAC waiver each month at an average monthly cost of \$7,067 in state and federal funds. A waiver allows states to obtain federal Medicaid matching funds to provide long-term services and supports to people in community settings instead of institutions.

Who is eligible for the CAC waiver?

Eligibility for the CAC waiver is determined through a screening process. To be eligible, a person must:

- Be on Medical Assistance (MA) or be eligible for MA based on the person's own income or assets.
- Be certified disabled by the Social Security Administration or the State Medical Review Team.
- Be under the age of 65 years old when the person first goes on the waiver.
- Require the level of care provided to people in a hospital.
- Need skilled assessment and intervention multiple times during a 24-hour period to maintain health and prevent deterioration.
- Have both predictable health needs and the potential for changes in condition that could lead to rapid deterioration or life-threatening episodes.
- Require a 24-hour plan of care that includes a backup plan.
- Be expected to require frequent or continuous care in a hospital without CAC waiver services.
- Have an assessed need for supports and services over and above those available through the MA state plan.
- Choose care and services in the community instead of a hospital.

Once eligibility is determined for the CAC waiver, certain questions about services must be asked, including:

- Are the services necessary to ensure the person's health and safety?
- Is the service covered by any other funding source, such as MA state plan services, private health care coverage, Medicare, education or vocational rehabilitation service funding?
- Have all options been assessed and does this option meet the desires, needs and preferences of the person?

- Is the cost of the service considered reasonable and customary?

In addition to services covered by Medical Assistance, what other services are available through the CAC waiver?

- 24-hour emergency assistance
- Adult companion
- Adult day service in family adult day settings
- Caregiver living expenses
- Case management and case management aide
- Chore
- Consumer-directed community supports, a service option giving the person flexibility and responsibility to direct his or her own services and supports
- Crisis respite
- Employment development
- Employment exploration
- Employment support
- Environmental accessibility adaptations
- Extended home care nursing
- Extended home health care services, including home health aide, nursing and occupational, physical, speech and respiratory therapies
- Extended personal care assistance
- Family training and counseling
- Foster care
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker
- Housing access coordination
- Independent living skills training
- Individualized home support
- In-home family support
- Night supervision
- Personal support services
- Positive support services
- Respite
- Specialist services
- Specialized equipment and supplies
- Supported employment services
- Transitional services
- Transportation

How can people apply for the CAC waiver?

Apply for the CAC waiver at your local county public health or social service agency. The DHS Disability Services Division administers the CAC waiver.

This information is available in accessible formats to people with disabilities by calling local 651-431-4300, toll-free 1-866-267-7655, or by using your preferred relay service. For other information on disability rights and protections, contact the agency's ADA coordinator.



For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4300, toll-free 866-267-7655 or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (1-18)