



Council on Aging
of Southwestern Ohio

Answers on Aging

HOME Choice FACT SHEET

HOME Choice helps older and disabled Ohioans who've been living in long-term care facilities move to home and community-based care settings and get the support they need to remain safe and independent in the home of their choice.

"It gets you your life back. I expect I'd be in the nursing home more years without it. I don't want to think about that." After a stroke, Carol lived in a nursing home for four years before she was able to move to her own apartment with help from HOME Choice.



Expanding long-term care options for nursing facility residents

Though it's hard to believe, many older and disabled Ohioans who have been living in a nursing facility for an extended period of time are there simply because they have no where else to go. And if they did have someplace to go, they no longer have the things that make a house a home, and they may need help if they want to live independently.

HOME Choice helps eligible Ohioans move out of nursing facilities and instead receive services in home and community-based settings.

Home and community-based options are popular choices for seniors and people with disabilities who want to have more choice and control over the services they receive and the setting in which they receive them.

What is HOME Choice?

HOME Choice helps eligible older adults and people with disabilities move from long-term care facilities to home and community-based settings.

HOME Choice gives you:

- greater choice and control over where they receive long-term care
- help to move back into the community, including finding housing; setting up a household; and connecting to services and goods necessary to live in the community, such as health care, personal assistance, and more.

Who is eligible for HOME Choice?

To participate in HOME Choice, you must be a person of any age who:

- has lived in a long-term care facility for at least 90 days
- is eligible for Medicaid at least one day prior to discharge from the facility
- has care needs that would otherwise be met only by a long-term care facility

continued on back...

More About HOME Choice

How does the program work?

HOME Choice is a “transition” program. It is designed to help you move from a long-term care facility into a home or community-based setting where you will continue to have access to the same services you received in the long-term care facility.

Your transition from the long-term care facility into your new home is carefully monitored by a *transition coordinator*.

Your transition coordinator will work with you and your family to help you find appropriate housing, set up your household (acquire furniture and other household goods), connect to community services to help you maintain your independence, and coordinate your health care and prescription services/benefits.

As a HOME Choice client, you'll also receive services that will help you build and maintain your independence in your new home. These may include independent living skills training, a community support coach, nutritional counseling, nursing, care management, communication aides, and service animals.

After the transition period ends, you will continue to receive care and services through a Medicaid waiver program such as PASSPORT.

Where will I live?

The HOME Choice program moves eligible long-term care facility residents into approved home and community-based settings. Your transition coordinator will help you find appropriate housing. Approved housing options include:

- a home owned or leased by you or your family members
- an individually leased and lockable apartment rented by you or your family members
- a community-based residential setting with no more than four unrelated persons

“When you go to a nursing home you can’t take anything with you, and when you come out, you have to start from scratch. If it had not been for [HOME Choice] -- setting up our services and getting furniture -- we couldn’t have done it.”

Tom and Linda, Oxford

Why is HOME Choice needed?

Legislators and leaders in Ohio’s aging network have been working to balance the state’s long-term care system. They want to ensure Medicaid-eligible individuals can receive long-term care in the setting of their choice, and they want to save taxpayers’ money. HOME Choice is a step in the right direction. Home and community-based care is not only compassionate, it’s cost-effective. Home care averages \$1,100 a month compared to \$4,800 for care in a Medicaid nursing facility.

Who runs this program?

HOME Choice is administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. As the Area Agency on Aging for Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties, Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio helps identify and enroll eligible participants.

How do I get more information or enroll in the program?

For more information, contact Council on Aging at (513) 721-1025.

June 2010

Southwestern Ohio’s Area Agency on Aging Since 1974

Council on Aging is designated by the state of Ohio to serve the older adults of Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren counties. We are experts on aging with a variety of programs available as free and low-cost public services. **Our mission:** Enhance the lives of adults by assisting them to remain independent at home through a range of quality services.