



Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio | *Answers on Aging*

## How Our Home Care Services Can Help You

Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio offers services that help older adults remain safe and independent in their homes. Our two main home care programs are:

- **PASSPORT:** for disabled adults age 60 and older who are eligible for Medicaid insurance (low-income)
- **Elderly Services Program (ESP):** for disabled adults age 65 and older (age 60 in Warren County) who are not eligible for Medicaid insurance

Both programs offer older adults and their families an alternative to nursing home care. Nursing homes are important, but no one wants to go there before their time. Most people want to stay in their own homes for as long as possible. This enables them to remain a part of their communities as well as maintain relationships with friends and family.

A key benefit of both programs is care management. Each home care client has a care manager – someone who monitors each client’s care plan and makes adjustments as needed, communicates with family members, and advocates for the client’s best interests.

PASSPORT and ESP services are free of charge or set at an affordable level, depending on income, certain assets and medical expenses. Older adults who are not eligible for PASSPORT or the Elderly Services Program may arrange and pay for home care services through private agencies (contact Council on Aging for a list of home care agencies). It is important to understand that Medicare **does not** cover most long-term care services.

The following scenarios will help you better understand how in-home care programs like PASSPORT and ESP can help you or someone you care about. To find out if you or someone you know qualifies for one of these programs, please call Council on Aging at (513) 721-1025.

| Scenario   | Cause (examples only) | Help available through PASSPORT or ESP  | Special Notes |
|--|-----------------------|---|---------------|
| Unable to provide self care such as bathing and dressing | Severe arthritis      | <b>Personal Care</b> – Hands-on help with bathing, grooming and dressing.               |               |
| Inability to do laundry or housekeeping                  | Heart condition       | <b>Homemaker</b> – Performs chores such as laundry, housekeeping, grocery and shopping. |               |

| Scenario  | Cause (examples only)  | Help available through PASSPORT or ESP   | Special Notes  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Unable to prepare meals                               | Poor mobility or dementia  | <b>Home-delivered Meals</b> – One nutritious meal delivered daily.   | Anyone over age 60 is eligible for home delivered meals (no income requirements). You do not have to be a PASSPORT or ESP client to qualify. Meals are free but donations are appreciated to help provide meals to more elderly people in our community. |
| Need for socialization or caregiver respite (day off) | Caregiver needs a break to care for own family; client is isolated | <b>Adult Day Services</b> – Centers where disabled elderly people receive care, recreation, and companionship.   |  |
| History of falls, lives alone                         | Poor mobility, osteoporosis  | <b>Emergency Response</b> - Client presses a pendant worn on the neck. Emergency responders speak through a telephone device and come to the home if needed. |  |
| Inability to use a standard toilet                    | Poor balance   | <b>Medical Equipment</b> – Items such as walkers, wheelchairs, lift chairs and bathroom adaptive devices.  |  |
| Isolated, homebound                                   | Low mobility, illness  | <b>Companion Service</b> – Help with grocery shopping, letter-writing and companionship.   |  |
| Vermin/bug infestation                                | Inability to clean   | <b>Environmental or Chore Services</b> – pest control, major housekeeping and waste removal.   |  |
| Home not handicap accessible                          | Uses a wheelchair  | <b>Home Modifications and Repairs</b> – for safety. Examples: access ramps, bathroom grab bars and replace broken locks.                                     | Service available to home care clients as well as other qualified applicants through the HOME Program  |
| Unable to do personal paperwork                       | Poor eyesight; confusion   | <b>Independent Living Assistance (ILA)</b> – Assistance with writing bills, applying for assistance and other paperwork.                                     | COA can also help you select Medicare and Medicare D programs. Call 721-1025 and ask for the Community Resources & Information Dept. Free service open to anyone.  |
| No transportation                                     | Inability to drive   | <b>Medical Transportation</b> – Provides transportation to and from medical appointments.  |  |