

## What help is available?

After recovering from an illness or injury, many older adults and people with disabilities remain in nursing homes simply because there is no place else for them to go. If they do have a home, many need help to live independently again.

Council on Aging (COA) helps eligible people move out of nursing homes and receive services instead in their homes or other community-based settings.



"I just couldn't see myself getting out of bed everyday, going around and smiling at everyone but not really being happy. There was nothing more they (nursing home) could do for me. I just asked God to take me out of there."

After a paralyzing car crash in his 40s, Anthony spent the next 13 years in a nursing home. COA's Community Transitions team helped him move out and into a place of his own.

## Community Transitions

**Community Transitions** restores independence by helping older adults and people with disabilities move from long-term care facilities to more independent home and community settings.

A transition coordinator works with other community organizations to coordinate the care you need in order to live independently, including housing; long-term care and medical services; other community services and benefits; financial assistance; and family support.

Our skilled staff will help you establish a care plan and will adjust it as your needs change. Your care plan may include the following services\*:

- care management
- communication aides; service animals
- community support coach
- electronic monitoring system
- help managing your medications
- home-delivered meals and nutritional counseling
- housekeeping; laundry
- independent living skills training
- medical equipment and supplies
- nursing; personal care
- transportation

***\*Service eligibility determined by a transition coordinator or care manager.***

## HOME Choice

Some people who have no home to return to (or who need home modifications) may qualify for **HOME Choice**, an Ohio Medicaid program that provides additional transitional and financial support for eligible adults who are moving from a nursing home to a more independent home or community-based setting.

During a "transition" period, HOME Choice clients work closely with a transition coordinator to find appropriate housing, set up their household, connect to community services to help them live independently, and coordinate their health care and prescription benefits.

**To qualify for 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
- has care needs that would otherwise be met only by a nursing home

"There has to be careful coordination by all the organizations involved so that when clients leave a nursing home, they go into a situation that is safe, comfortable and meets their needs. It is very rewarding to go into a facility, meet someone who has lost the means to return home, and have programs that can give home back to them."

COA Community Transition Coordinator

## Where will I live?

Some individuals have homes to return to. Others need help finding appropriate housing. Your transition coordinator will help you find appropriate housing, including:

- 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



"It's been a long struggle, but moving into this new place, I feel like a new man."

The victim of a violent crime, Jerome had to break the lease on his apartment while he recovered in a nursing home. He lost his security deposit and couldn't imagine how he could afford to find a new place. HOME Choice helped.

## How do I get started?

**Call Council on Aging at (513) 721-1025 or (800) 252-0155.** You will meet with a Council on Aging Community Transition Coordinator to determine if you could live safely in a home or community-based setting.

Your transition coordinator will determine your eligibility for programs, services and other community supports that will help you in your transition.

### About Council on Aging

Council on Aging is designated by the state of Ohio to serve older adults and people with disabilities within a multi-county region. We are experts at helping people with complex medical and long-term care needs, offering a variety of services via publicly-funded programs.

*Our mission: Enhance people's lives by assisting them to remain independent at home through a range of quality services.*

175 Tri County Parkway  
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# Council on Aging



## Community Transitions and HOME Choice

Restoring independence by helping people move from nursing homes to their own homes.

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