

# Assisted Living Waiver

**Ohio's Assisted Living Waiver Program is a long-term care option that combines a home-like setting with personal support services. It provides more intensive care than is available through home care services.**

Independence. It can be a hard thing to let go of, especially when it means it might be time to leave the home you've lived in for years. Fortunately, for families of older adults and other Medicaid-eligible adults, there are more long-term care options available now than ever before.

One of those options – the Assisted Living Waiver – is an attractive alternative for people who need long-term care, but not necessarily in a nursing home. Ohio's Medicaid program pays for older adults and people with disabilities to receive care in assisted living facilities, where residents have more independence, privacy and services that are tailored to meet their needs.

## **What is the Assisted Living Waiver?**

The Assisted Living Waiver provides another long-term care option for some of the most vulnerable members of our community: low-income adults who want to live independently but who need caregiving and financial assistance. Assisted living facilities offer an alternative to nursing facility care that is both less expensive and less restrictive.

## **Who is eligible to participate?**

To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria:

- Age 21 or older
- Meet the financial criteria for Medicaid eligibility (low-income) and be able to pay monthly room and board
- In need of skilled or intermediate care: hands-on help with dressing, bathing, toileting, grooming, meal preparation, housekeeping, medication management, mobility, etc.



A Council on Aging (COA) nurse or social worker will meet with you to determine your eligibility.

If you qualify, your COA care manager will develop an individual care plan for you, your family, and the staff at the assisted living facility where you'll be living.

## **How much does this program cost?**

The Assisted Living Waiver pays for the cost of your care (not room and board) in participating Assisted Living facilities in Ohio. You are responsible for the cost of your room and board at a monthly rate that is set by the state. Depending on your income and certain out-of-pocket health-related expenses, you may also have a co-payment. Each month, you will keep \$50 as a living allowance. You may be allowed to keep extra money to cover certain approved health-related expenses.

## **What services are included in the program?**

Privacy and independence are key features of the Assisted Living Waiver. Facilities provide private, single-occupancy apartments with a private bathroom and space for socialization.

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In addition to private living space, two types of services are provided: 1) assisted living services and 2) community transition services for those leaving a nursing facility. Enrolled individuals also have a care manager from Council on Aging.



## Basic Assisted Living Services

Services could include any of the following depending on the specific needs of the individual: 24-hour on-site response, personal care, supportive services (housekeeping, laundry and maintenance), nursing, three meals per day and snacks, and coordination of social, recreational, and leisure activities.

## Community Transition Service

This service is available to individuals who are leaving a nursing facility to enroll in the Assisted Living Waiver. It helps them purchase essential household furnishings and other items they might have given up when they moved into the nursing facility.

## Care Manager

You'll be assigned a Council on Aging care manager who will answer your questions, make sure you have the right services and coordinate the care you receive at the assisted living facility.

## Memory Care Service

Includes, as needed and based on individual needs, everything in the basic assisted living service with the addition of increased staff-to-resident ratios, dementia care training for all staff, and at least three therapeutic, social or recreational activities per day.

## How do I enroll?

Participants must be financially eligible for Medicaid and need a "nursing facility level of care," the same requirements as for the PASSPORT program.

After answering some questions on the telephone, we'll meet with you to determine your eligibility and level of care. We work with county departments of Job and Family Services to determine your financial eligibility for the program.

Before the meeting, you'll receive a letter listing the information you will need to have available, including documents to verify your income, assets, household and medical expenses.

If you qualify, you will be assigned a care manager who will work with you, your family, and the facility to prepare a care plan that's right for you. Your doctor must approve this plan.

**For more information about the  
Assisted Living Waiver:**

**(513) 721-1025  
(800) 252-0155  
[www.help4seniors.org](http://www.help4seniors.org)**

## Preserving Independence, Enhancing Quality of Life

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 lives by assisting people to remain independent through a range of quality services.