



FACT SHEET

PASSPORT

Ohio's Nursing Home Alternative

Since 1987, Ohio's PASSPORT program has been helping Medicaid-eligible older Ohioans get the care they need to stay in their homes.

PASSPORT is an Ohio Medicaid program that helps eligible older adults receive care and support in their homes, instead of a nursing home. It is Ohio's in-home alternative to nursing home care. Without it, many disabled, low-income older adults would be forced prematurely into nursing homes.

PASSPORT provides free or low-cost in-home care for Ohioans who:

- are age 60 or older
- are eligible for Medicaid (low-income)
- require skilled or intermediate level of care, including hands-on help with activities such as bathing, eating or mobility
- can live safely in a home setting with their doctor's approval
- are not eligible for benefits via MyCare Ohio

PASSPORT is good for older adults, caregivers and Ohio taxpayers:

- For older adults who need help with bathing, cooking or transportation, enrolling in PASSPORT means being able to stay at home, instead of going to a nursing home.
- For caregivers, PASSPORT means extra help for you and your loved one, and more time for other responsibilities such as work and family.
- For taxpayers, PASSPORT means big savings. It costs more than \$8,000 a month for care in a Medicaid nursing home, while the monthly cost for PASSPORT is typically about one-third of that.



"It means everything to me to be able to stay at home. I love this place."

-Keith

Benefits include:

Meals, personal care, medical equipment and transportation, to name a few. Enrollment in PASSPORT entitles you to other Medicaid benefits, including lower prescription and out-of-pocket medical expenses. You may also be able to hire your own providers. More details are provided on the back of this fact sheet.

Your care manager will answer your questions, make sure you have the right services and coordinate care you may be receiving from family and friends.

PASSPORT is flexible:

You stay with your doctors or specialists (as long as they accept Medicaid). Your services can be adjusted if your needs change. And, if you have to go to a nursing home, you can remain on the program (up to 90 days) and return home without having to re-enroll.

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Services provided by PASSPORT:

Services are available to eligible older adults who need help with activities of daily living (bathing, cleaning, cooking, transportation, etc.). Eligibility for each service is determined by your care manager.

- Adult Day Care: structured programs provide a secure, stimulating environment and respite (a break) for caregivers
- Care Management: a nurse or social worker coordinates services and monitors care
- Chore Service: pest control, major housecleaning, waste removal
- Emergency Response System: 24-hour fall protection and help with medications
- Home-delivered Meals and Nutritional Counseling
- Homemaking: light cleaning, laundry, shopping
- Independent Living Assistance: help with benefit applications or organizing personal records; regular phone check-ins
- Medical Equipment and Supplies: health- or safety-related equipment (ie. bath bench, cane or walker)
- Minor Home Modifications: repairs and safety upgrades such as ramps, grab bars, dead-bolt locks
- Personal Care: a trained aide helps with bathing, dressing, grooming
- Social Work Counseling: for participant or caregiver to promote the participant's physical, social or emotional well-being
- Structured Family Caregiving: caregivers receive support and oversight from a provider agency, helping ensure consistency
- Transportation: to medical/social service appointments
- Waiver Nursing: additional nursing services when services through Medicare or Medicaid are maxed out. Care manager approval required.

Participant-directed service options:

PASSPORT provides options for some participants to direct their own care. This gives you more choice and control over the delivery of your services. It allows you to hire and manage your own direct service workers (care workers cannot be a parent, step-parent, spouse, guardian, power of attorney or DPOA). You will receive information to assist with learning the necessary skills to direct your services. Talk with your care manager to find out if this option is right for you. Limitations apply.

Signing up for PASSPORT:

You'll answer a few questions over the phone and a Council on Aging staff member will visit with you to determine your eligibility and care needs.

Before the visit, you'll receive a list of information you will need to provide, including documents to verify your income, assets, household and medical expenses.

If you qualify, your care manager will work with you, your family and your doctor to determine which services can best meet your needs.

**For more information about
PASSPORT:**

(513) 721-1025

(800) 252-0155

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.