



## Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

---

# Elderly Waiver Program

## What is the Elderly Waiver Program?

The Elderly Waiver (EW) program funds home- and community-based services for people age 65 and older who are eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) and require the level of care provided in a nursing home, but choose to reside in the community. The Minnesota Department of Human Services operates the EW program under a federal waiver to Minnesota's Medicaid State Plan. Counties, tribal entities and health plan partners administer the program.

## What types of services are available?

Covered services include:

- Adult day service
- Chore services
- Companion services
- Consumer-directed community supports
- Home health aides
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker services
- Licensed community residential services (customized living services or 24-hour customized living services, family foster care, residential care)
- Environmental accessibility adaptations
- Personal care assistant
- Respite care
- Skilled nursing
- Specialized equipment and supplies
- Training for informal caregivers
- Transitional supports
- Transportation

## Who is eligible?

- Those eligible for the Elderly Waiver program are 65 or older, eligible for Medical Assistance and need nursing home level of care as determined by the Long-Term Care Consultation process.
- The EW service cost for an individual cannot be greater than the estimated nursing home cost for that same individual.

## How many people? How many dollars?

In fiscal year (FY) 2011, the Elderly Waiver Program served 28,158\* recipients through fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care options (Minnesota Senior Health Option or MSHO and Minnesota Senior Care Plus-MSO+). The total dollars spent on waiver services was \$310,798,254.\*\*

In FY06, the state implemented changes to the service delivery systems for EW recipients resulting in the statewide expansion of capitated payments to managed care providers required to provide the EW benefit set. Delivery programs include MSHO, an integrated Medicaid/Medicare health care/long-term care option; and Minnesota Senior Care Plus, a Medicaid health care/long-term care option.

At the end of FY11, 93 percent of Elderly Waiver clients received services through a managed care organization. The average monthly EW client population for FY11 was 22,330\* with an average monthly cost of \$1,576\*\* per FFS recipient and \$1,155\*\* per managed care options recipient.

## **What alternatives exist for people who are eligible for EW?**

Probable alternatives include Medicaid-certified skilled nursing facilities and certified board-and-care homes. The average cost of these alternative settings is \$5,020\*\*\* per person, per month.

## **Where can I learn more about the EW program?**

The EW program is described in [Minnesota Statutes 256B.0915](#).

## **Where can I learn more about managed care for seniors?**

[More information about managed care for seniors](#) is on the DHS website.

## **How can I enroll?**

Contact your [county's social services or public health department](#). If you are already on Medical Assistance and enrolled in a health plan, you should contact your health plan.

## **How do I obtain more information as a provider of home- and community-based services?**

See [Chapter 26A](#) of the provider manual.

Call the Senior LinkAge Line® at (800) 333-2433 for more information about the program.

\* Data from DHS Data Warehouse

\*\* Data from November 2011 DHS Forecast

\*\*\* Data from Nursing Facility Rates and Policy Division

This information is available in alternative formats to individuals with disabilities by contacting us at (651) 431-2600. TTY users can call through Minnesota Relay Service at (800) 627-3529. For Speech-to-Speech, call (877) 627-3848. For additional assistance with legal rights and protections for equal access to human services programs, contact your agency's ADA coordinator.