

1200 Converse Street Longmeadow Massachusetts 01106

MassHealthHELP.com

MassHealth Home Care Programs in Hampden County Programs that could help you avoid a Nursing Home Admission

LAW OFFICE OF JOHN L. ROBERTS

Call (413) 567-5600 to Schedule an Educational Meeting Appointment with Attorney John L. Roberts. <u>Click to view available appointment times.</u> CALENDAR HONOLY REMAY RESEARCY HONOLY 1 2 3

Where do most people want to live? We want to live in our own home. Whether home is a single-family residence, a home we share with friends or family members, or an apartment that includes assisted living or other amenities, Medicaid has home health care programs that pay for or provide care at home. These MassHealth programs are the key for many people who want to live at home, and avoid a nursing home admission.



The <u>Home and Community-Based Services Waiver regulations</u> allow people to receive Medicaid paid services in their homes, if the home care services keep them out of a nursing home. **The 2022 monthly income limit for Frail Elder Waiver, PACE, and Money Follows the Person Waiver is \$2,402** [calculated by multiplying 3x the SSI <u>Federal Benefit Rate of \$841</u> +**\$20 = \$2,543**].

There is no such thing as too much income, or too many assets. For people who have income greater than federal poverty guidelines, <u>MassHealth Financial Eligibility Regulations</u> explain how care expenses can add up so you can meet a deductible and obtain eligibility. We are asking the Massachusetts Legislature to eliminate the "over income" problem with a law directing that MassHealth simply charge a premium equal to a person's excess income amount. Read the proposal at: <u>Bill HD.938</u> and <u>Bill SD.527</u> and call your <u>State Rep and State Senator</u> | <u>Fact Sheet</u>.

Income from <u>Veterans Aid & Attendance</u> and other VA pensions is <u>not</u> counted against you if you are a veteran or spouse who needs Medicaid for home care. Proper planning can make anyone eligible for these programs if you need the kind of care described in program regs:

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Adult Foster Care (AFC)

This program is for people who cannot live alone safely, who have a family member or trusted friend who can devote time and attention that provides 24-hour care. AFC pays the caregiver a stipend of up to \$18,000 per year (tax-free). The program is sometimes called by the names of agencies that serve as the overseers of the host caregiver: *Adult Family Care* and *Caregiver Homes*.

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<u>Adult Foster Care Regulations</u> list two levels of care, which can include care for difficult behavior management. A nursing assessment determines the person's level of need. Social workers and nurses provide 24/7 on call support to the host and the elder. The elder can move in with the host provider, or a host can move in with the elder.

The host/provider must be: • 18 or older • maintain a private home in good repair and of sufficient size to accommodate both the AFC participant(s) and other residents of the home • complete a physical exam including a TB test • be physically able to supervise and/or provide hands on care to the elder and assist with meal prep, transportation to doctor appointments, provide Rx monitoring and personal care • respect participant's right to make decisions • pass a CORI check • be willing to work with ASAP program administrator. The "host" can be a son, daughter or any family member (but <u>not</u> a spouse) of the person who needs care. In 2014 the Massachusetts Legislature declined to include a patient's spouse for eligibility to participate in the program.

Community Choices

Community Choices is a program that provides as much support/services as needed for people who are clinically frail enough to qualify for immediate nursing home admission (so it cannot be used by people in assisted living). It is designed to provide an alternative to nursing home placement for people who are in imminent danger of nursing home placement, or who want to be discharged from a nursing home, but need substantial home care.

This program works best for people who do not have a preferred caregiver or family member who coordinates care. The elder has less control over caregivers than PCA and Adult Foster Care.

Group Adult Foster Care (GAFC)

This program pays for services for elders in subsidized senior housing and in assisted living centers. GAFC pays \$40.33 per day (\$1,226.70 / month) for services such as daily personal care, homemaking, meals, and transportation.

The assisted living center may combine the GAFC services with the room and board which is paid by the resident, and another program called SSI-G. But you do <u>not</u> have to be eligible to receive SSI-G in order to qualify for GAFC. Use the Group Adult button on my <u>Hampden County Area Elder</u> Care resources page to locate assisted living centers offering apartments with the GAFC subsidy.

To qualify for GAFC, the person must have low monthly income, or obtain the MassHealth Home and Community Based Services waiver.

Personal Care Attendant Program (PCA)

This Medicaid funded program is best for people who already have a preferred caregiver. Regulations allow you to hire a son, daughter or any family member, except your spouse. The program pays for home care services for people who need daily assistance with ADLs. The MassHealth member hires the caregiver and submits time slips to a *fiscal intermediary* which processes payroll checks and income tax withholding.

<u>The PCA Regulations</u> explain how a written plan of services is developed jointly by the personal care agency and the person who needs care. Care plans can increase or decrease, depending on need or changing medical conditions. You can appeal if you don't get approval for enough care hours.



Senior Care Options (SCO): Combining MEDICARE with

For people age 65+, this Medicaid/Medicare funded program provides services, benefits and treatments authorized by your primary care physician, or your "primary care team". There are no copays, deductibles or other fees, and no out of pocket expenses. Your doctors must be part of the SCO provider network. General Information: (888) 885-0484

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/senior-care-options-sco-brochures https://www.mass.gov/senior-care-options-sco

Services can include:

urgent care	transportation to and from medical	home care			
outpatient	appointments	hospice			
inpatient, including nursing	chores	behavioral health			
home care	day care	dental, dentures and crowns			
outpatient/in patient surgery	accessibility adaptations	PCA program/services			
Prescriptions	life lines	and services ordered by your			
preventive care	companion services	PCP or your "team"			
There are several SCO	There are several SCOs serving people in Hampden County:				

Commonwealth Care Alliance (CCA): (877) 780-4711

Navi Care a/k/a Falon: (877) 255-7108 Deborah Deluca 508-736-7220 Senior Whole Health (888) 566-3526

Tufts: (800) 701-9000

United Health Care: (888) 834-3721

MFP – Money Follows the Person (the Moving Forward Plan)

In Massachusetts MFP is called the <u>Moving Forward Plan</u>. To apply for MFP, the person must: be living in a Skilled Nursing Facility now, need a clinical level of care, have a plan to be safely cared for in their home in the community, and comply with Medicaid income and asset rules.



The ABI and MFP Waiver Programs

If you are living in a facility, and are wondering how you can move out and live more independently, we invite you to consider applying for one of these programs.





A person over age 65 who wants to leave a Skilled Nursing Facility and return to their home can apply for <u>MFP-CL</u> (<u>Community Living</u>). A person who has had a stroke could also apply for ABI-N (Acquired Brain Injury Non-Residential, meaning the person is not seeking a slot in a group home). <u>MFP pays for services</u> including Assisted Living and Adult Companion to Personal Care, Respite and

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Transportation. The application is filed with and screened by the Moving Forward Plan Waiver Unit at UMass Medical in Shrewsbury. (855) 499-5109

Since MFP is for people who have been in a nursing home for 90 consecutive days or longer, you are not eligible if you are at home now and want to continue living at home.

PACE – Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

PACE is for patients who are eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. PACE coordinates healthcare to help elders live safely in their own home. For people who are on Medicare and Medicaid there is no out of pocket expense. Cost share or private pay options are available for people who can't qualify for Medicaid.

The purpose of the program is to help prevent nursing home admissions. If a nursing home admission becomes necessary, the PACE plan pays for the long-term care in the facility.

All services must be provided or authorized by the PACE Interdisciplinary Team, except emergency services. PACE participants may be held liable for unauthorized costs that are outside the PACE program agreement.

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for non Medicaid - Medicare patient			
Drug Prescriptions	Covered in full when authorized by medical provider and included in care plan. Network of contracted pharmacies in the community; or Mail Order. Overnight delivered to patient by PACE Pharmacy	Covered in full when authorized by medical provider and included in care plan. Network of contracted pharmacies in the community; or Mail Order.	Covered in full when authorized by medical provider and included in care plan. Network of contracted pharmacies in the community; or Mail Order.
Co pays		None	
Van Transportation	To the clinic and medical appointments as needed, and to the Center during 8:30 – 4:30 pm	To the clinic and all medical appointments and the day program	
Home care hours provided to patient	Determined by inter disciplinary team and included in care plan	Determined by inter disciplinary team and included in care plan	
Day Program	Center Hour: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30pm	8:00 a.m. – 4:30pm	
Respite Care	Yes, for members.	Yes.	
Support Groups for Caregivers	Yes.	Yes.	
Prepare MassHealth Application for new members?	Yes.	Yes.	

