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 Appointment for an Educational Meeting

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 Home and Community-Based Services Waiver regulations allow people to receive Medicaid paid services in their homes, if the home care services keep them out of a nursing home. The 2018 Frail Elder Waiver monthly income limit is $2,250 (3x SSI Federal Benefit Rate of $750) but there is no such thing as too much income, or too many assets. For people who have income greater than federal poverty guidelines, MassHealth Financial Eligibility Regulations explain how care expenses can add up to meet a deductible to obtain eligibility. Proper planning can make anyone eligible for these programs if they need the level of care described in the program regulations:

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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. Adult Foster Care Regulations 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 not 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 not have to be eligible to receive SSI-G in order to qualify for GAFC. Use the button on our Hampden County Area Elder 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.

The PCA Regulations 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 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 co-pays, 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>urgent care</th>
<th>Prescriptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>outpatient</td>
<td>preventive care</td>
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<tr>
<td>inpatient, including nursing home care</td>
<td>transportation to and from medical appointments</td>
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out patient/in patient surgery  
home care  
hospice  
behavioral health  
dental, dentures and crowns  
PCA program/services  
chore  
day care  
accessibility adaptations  
life lines  
companion services and any and all services ordered by your PCP or your "team"

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

PACE – Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

PACE is for patients who are eligible for Medicare and 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 they incur outside the PACE program agreement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coverage Area</th>
<th>Hampden and Hampshire Counties</th>
<th>Hampden and Worcester Counties</th>
<th>Hampden and Hampshire Counties. Portions of Franklin County</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Director</td>
<td>Dr. Rachel Broudy</td>
<td>Dr. Alice Grover</td>
<td>Olga Demchuk, RN, MSN</td>
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<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Joseph Larkin, RN</td>
<td>Kris Bostek</td>
<td>Rita Norton</td>
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<td>Clinical Director</td>
<td>Kaitlin Swistak, Clinic</td>
<td>Nancy Leahey, RN</td>
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MercyLIFE  
200 Hillside Circle, West Springfield  
(413) 827-4238

Summit Eldercare  
101 Wason Avenue, Springfield  
(774) 317-6200

Serenity Care Adult Day Health  
604 Cottage St, Springfield, MA 01104  
(413) 734-5445

designed to serve immigrants from the former Soviet bloc and the Middle East  
http://www.serenitypace.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Manager</strong></th>
<th><strong>Site Director</strong></th>
<th><strong>Enrollment</strong></th>
<th><strong>Social Work</strong></th>
<th><strong>Nutritionist, Dietician</strong></th>
<th><strong>Hospital Affiliation</strong></th>
<th><strong>Physicians and Medical Specialists</strong></th>
<th><strong>Patient’s Age</strong></th>
<th><strong>Patient’s Required Care Level</strong></th>
<th><strong>Enrollment Timeline Sequence:</strong> determining whether PACE would be successful.</th>
<th><strong>Income Limit</strong></th>
<th><strong>Countable Asset Limit for Medicaid Patients</strong></th>
<th><strong>Non countable assets for Medicaid Patients</strong></th>
<th><strong>MassHealth Buy In Premium</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tracy Carroll, Center Director</td>
<td>Mary Woodis, RN</td>
<td>Jen Santerre (413) 827-4238&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:Jennifer.santerre@sphs.com">Jennifer.santerre@sphs.com</a></td>
<td>(800) 698-7566</td>
<td>Helen Czer&lt;br&gt;413-372-2571&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:helenCzer@aol.com">helenCzer@aol.com</a></td>
<td>Anne Smidt, MSW&lt;br&gt;Cg Swift, LicSW</td>
<td>Erica Emerson, LIC; MSW</td>
<td>Olga Demchuk, RN</td>
<td>Lisa Normila, RD&lt;br&gt;Kate Sandord, RD&lt;br&gt;Patricia Yelle</td>
<td>Mercy Medical Center and Holyoke Medical Center</td>
<td>Baystate Medical Center</td>
<td>Contracted physicians; the physician list available at time of enrollment</td>
<td>55 or older</td>
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<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>Medicaid eligible</td>
<td>Private Pay Premium</td>
<td>Non-Medicaid - Medicare patient</td>
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<td><strong>Private Pay Premium</strong></td>
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<td>Approximately $4,300/month</td>
<td>$4,433/month</td>
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<td><strong>Drug Prescriptions</strong></td>
<td>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</td>
<td>Covered in full when authorized by medical provider and included in care plan. Network of contracted pharmacies in the community; or Mail Order.</td>
<td>Covered in full when authorized by medical provider and included in care plan. Network of contracted pharmacies in the community; or Mail Order.</td>
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<td>Co pays</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Van Transportation</td>
<td>To the clinic and medical appointments as needed, and to the Center during 8:30 – 4:30 pm</td>
<td>To the clinic and all medical appointments and the day program</td>
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<td>Home care hours provided to patient</td>
<td>Determined by interdisciplinary team and included in care plan</td>
<td>Determined by interdisciplinary team and included in care plan</td>
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<td>Day Program</td>
<td>Center Hour: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30pm</td>
<td>8:00 a.m. – 4:30pm</td>
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<td>Respite Care</td>
<td>Yes, for members.</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
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<td>Support Groups for Caregivers</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
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<td>Prepare MassHealth Application for new members?</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
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