



## Alternative Care Program

### What is the Alternative Care Program

The Alternative Care (AC) Program is a state-funded cost-sharing program that supports certain home- and community-based services for eligible Minnesotans, age 65 and over. This program provides home- and community-based services to prevent and delay transitions to nursing facility level of care. The program prevents the impoverishment of eligible seniors and shares the cost of care through an expanded client role by maximizing use of their own resources. It is administered by counties and tribal health agencies.

### What types of services are available?

Covered services include:

- Adult day care
- Care-related supplies and equipment
- Case management
- Chore services
- Companion services
- Consumer-directed community supports
- Home health aides
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker services
- Modifications and adaptations
- Nutrition services
- Personal care assistance
- Respite care
- Skilled nursing
- Training and support for family caregivers
- Transportation

### Who is eligible?

A person age 65 and older who is assessed through the Long-Term Care Consultation process is eligible for Alternative Care funding when the following are met:

- The person is in need of nursing facility level of care and admission is recommended.
- The person's income and assets would be inadequate to fund a nursing facility stay for more than 135 days.
- The monthly cost of AC services must be less than 75 percent of the average Medicaid payment limit for older people with a comparable case mix classification.
- The person chooses to receive community-based services instead of nursing facility services.
- The person pays the assessed monthly fee.
- No other funding source is available for the community services.

### How many people? How many dollars?

In fiscal year 2006, the Alternative Care program served 6,158 people and spent a total of \$43.5 million. The average monthly cost per enrollee was \$834, based upon an average monthly client population of 3949. A sliding fee schedule requires a fee payment, by some enrollees, up to 30 percent of the monthly service costs.

**What alternatives exist for people who are Alternative Care-eligible?**

Probable alternatives include Medicaid-certified skilled nursing facilities and certified board-and-care homes. The average cost of these alternative settings is \$4,374 per person per month, less a resident contribution toward cost of care.

**Where can I learn more about the AC program?**

The AC program is described in Minnesota State Statutes 256B.0913.

**How can I enroll?**

Contact your county's social services or public health department.

**How do I obtain more information as a provider of Alternative Care services?**

See Chapter 26A of the provider manual.

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