



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 care
- Care-related supplies and equipment
- Companion services
- Consumer-directed community supports
- Home health aides
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker services
- licensed community residential services (assisted living or customized living services, family foster care, residential care)
- Modifications and adaptations
- Personal care assistant
- Respite care
- Skilled nursing
- Training for informal caregivers
- Transitional supports
- Transportation

Who is eligible?

- Those eligible for the Elderly Waiver (EW) 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) 2005, the Elderly Waiver (EW) program served 17,047 recipients through fee-for-service (FFS) and managed care options (Minnesota Senior Health Option or MSHO). The total dollars spent on waiver services was \$140,809,515.

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 available in 20 county based purchasing counties. In FY06 many EW recipients transitioned from FFS to one of these managed care products. In FY06 there were 8,208 FFS recipients and 7,422 recipients who utilized FFS and managed care for a total of 15,630 EW recipients. There were 4,574 EW recipients who only utilized managed care for their EW services.

The grand total of EW clients served in FY06 was 20,204 with a total waiver service cost of \$177,947,599. The average monthly client population was 15,148.

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 \$4374 per person, per month.

Where can I learn more about the EW program?

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

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.