

Assisted Living Waiver

AUGUST 2006

What is an Assisted Living?

Assisted living offers more supervision and services than what may be available in a traditional home setting and allows consumers to have more independence, and less restrictions than a nursing facility. House Bill 66, the biennial budget bill for State Fiscal Year '06-'07, allowed for the creation of a waiver program to fund assisted living services. The Assisted Living Services Waiver (ALW) is a program administered by the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) that covers daily living services provided in an assisted living facility. Effective July 1, 2006 the ALW program is open to 1,800 Medicaid consumers who qualify.

Who is eligible?

Medicaid consumers, age 21 and over, who currently Medicaid services through PASSPORT, Choices, Ohio Home Care Waiver programs, live in a nursing home or residential care facility are eligible for the ALW. The monthly income is capped at \$1809, which is 300 percent of the Supplemental Security Income federal benefit rate. Additionally, applicants must require assistance with at least two activities of daily living that cannot be met through scheduled assistance. Examples of these needs include: bathroom assistance, medication administration, and transference into and out of bed.

Interested Medicaid consumers can apply by contacting their local Area Agency on Aging or county department of job and family services and complete a waiver request form (JFS 2399). A PASSPORT case manager will conduct a needs assessment to decide if level of care eligibility requirements are met. Once an individual qualifies for the ALW, he or she will be placed in a facility certified by the ODA, and will be able to receive personal, on-site care, 24-hour a day response capability, meals, transportation, social and recreational activities, and nursing.

What are the costs associated with the ALW?

Recipients of the ALW keep a portion of their monthly income to pay for their room and board and personal needs. Any income remaining is the patient liability and is paid directly to the facility to help cover the cost of care. Prescription co-pays are the responsibility of the participant. Additionally, a one-time transition service of no more than \$1,500 is available to help residents of nursing homes purchase necessary items when moving into an assisted living facility. Examples of these include: dishes, clothing, special furniture, and telephone.

Monthly Budget Example	
\$1509	Monthly Income
- \$ 603	Consumer's Portion
\$ 906	Patient Liability
\$603	Consumer's Portion
- \$553	Room & Board
\$50	Personal Needs Allowance

For more information, or to apply, contact your area Agency on Aging, a contact list is available at www.goldenbuckeye.com or by calling the Medicaid Consumer Hotline at 1-800-324-8680.