



ASSISTED LIVING WAIVER

Introduction

Assisted living bridges the gap between independent living and nursing home care. It provides personal support and services to provide more intensive care than is available through home care services. Assisted living typically offers assistance with the activities of daily living and ensures residents have access to staff 24 hours a day. It also is less expensive and less restrictive than a nursing home. The Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) program is one long-term care option for Medi-Cal recipients and offers an alternative to nursing facility placement. The program is a combination federal/state funded program that allows eligible individuals to reside in and receive services from a California licensed Residential Care Facility. A care coordinator works with the consumer and the facility to develop and maintain a care plan. Today the ALW is operating in Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Sonoma counties. A five year waiver renewal was effective March 1, 2014.

DHCS ALW website: <http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/AssistedLivingWaiver.aspx>

Eligibility

The ALW Program eligibility determination is made through official assessment and enrollment by a Care Coordination Agency in the participating county you live in, or will be moving to, in order to enroll in the program.

You must meet all eligibility requirements for enrollment in the waiver, including:

- You are age 21 or older AND Medicaid(Medi-Cal) eligible participant; and
- You require multiple hands-on assistance such as: mobility, bathing, using the bathroom, dressing, grooming, eating and taking medicines; and
- You have care needs that can be safely met in a residential care facility setting.
- Your total monthly income must not be greater than approximately \$1450. and your resources do not have a value greater than \$2,000. If your resources are above this amount, you will have to spend them down before you are eligible for Medi-Cal with no share of cost and the ALW Program.
- You cannot be a Medi-Cal participant in Cal MediConnect, SCAN or PACE plans.

Determining Medi-Cal Eligibility

Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) eligible individuals are those who are enrolled in Medi-Cal and meet the level of care provided in a nursing facility due to their medical needs. Individuals with Medi-Cal benefits that include a share of cost may not be enrolled in the ALW. Please contact your local county office to obtain information about how to apply for Medi-Cal benefits. Please note: the state does not determine eligibility for Medi-Cal benefits.

If you already receive Medi-Cal benefits with no share of cost, you probably meet this requirement. If you do not, please follow these steps in order to obtain a letter confirming that you will be eligible for Medi-Cal once you enroll in the ALW Program:

1. You must apply for Medi-Cal through the Medi-Cal Office in your present county of residence. You may take this flyer with you as some counties may need this information to help you.
2. You must provide verification of your income and your resources. For participation in the ALW Program, you may be eligible if your income is not more than approximately \$1,440. per month and your resources do not have a value greater than \$2,000. If your resources are above this amount, you will have to spend them down before you are eligible for Medi-Cal and the ALW Program.
 - o Personal property that is counted includes, but is not limited to, bank accounts, stocks, bonds, and certain life insurance policies and annuities. Home ownership is affected.
 - o The ALW Program recognizes spousal impoverishment for eligibility.

If you are not receiving Medi-Cal benefits, you may obtain enrollment information at:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/ApplyforMedi-Cal.aspx>

List of county offices to apply for Medi-Cal:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/Pages/CountyOffices.aspx>

Financial Considerations

As an assisted living waiver consumer, you are responsible to pay for monthly room and board to the facility. You will keep a monthly personal needs allowance to use at your discretion.

Room and Board

As an assisted living waiver consumer, you must be able to pay the established room and board payment. For 2016, those with income of \$1,145.00, room and board is \$1014.00 and those with income of \$1,165.00 or greater, room and board is \$1,034.00.

The room and board payment provides a single occupancy living unit. (If you choose to share your living unit with another individual with whom you have an existing relationship, discuss this with your care coordinator agency). You are responsible to pay the room and board fee directly to the facility each month. This payment maintains the living unit if you must temporarily leave the facility. The facility may not

charge you an additional fee to reserve your living unit when you are absent. If your income is less than the established room and board fee, contact the local Social Security Administration office and apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), though this won't necessarily guarantee additional income.

Medication Co-Payments

You are responsible to pay all prescription drug medication co-payments, as well as provide your own over-the-counter drugs.

Services

Services that are required by state statutes and regulations to be provided or coordinated must include, but are not limited to:

- Developing a Service Plan for each resident that details the needs of the resident, the provider of the service and, the frequency and timing of assessments. Residents must be a part of the process and must sign the Service Plan;
- Providing personal care and assistance with ADLs sufficient to meet both the scheduled and unscheduled needs of the residents;
- Washing, drying and folding all laundry;
- Performing all necessary housekeeping tasks;
- Maintaining the facility;
- Providing three meals per day plus snacks. Food must meet minimum daily nutritional requirements;
- Providing intermittent skilled nursing services as required by residents, and in accordance with State law, providing assistance with the self-administration of medications or, as necessary, administering medications;
- Providing or coordinating transportation;
- Providing daily recreational activities;
- Providing social services;
- Providing a response system that enables waiver beneficiaries to summon assistance from personal care providers.

A resident has the right to make choices and receive services in a way that will promote the resident's dignity, autonomy, independence, and quality of life. These services are disclosed and agreed to in the contract between the provider and resident. Assisted living does not generally provide ongoing, 24-hour skilled nursing. Assisted living units are private occupancy and shared only by the choice of residents.



ALW Care Coordination Agency

www.guidantcare.com

Toll free phone number: 1-877-919-0539

Toll free fax number: 1-844-494-6302