

Know Your Options

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) has a policy called Money Follows the Person (MFP), which allows certain Texans who are eligible for Medicaid and living in a nursing facility to choose an appropriate community setting and receive community services and supports.

How do I know if I qualify for services under the MFP policy?

You qualify if you receive services paid for by Medicaid, live in a nursing facility, and want to return to the community. Under MFP, if you meet the eligibility requirements for a certain community Medicaid waiver program, you can enroll in the program directly and not have your name placed on an interest list.

What is a Medicaid waiver program?

A Medicaid waiver program provides community-based services and supports to people who qualify for admission into a nursing facility or an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or a related condition (ICF-IID). They are called waivers because certain facility requirements are waived. Medicaid waiver programs are intended to be a cost-effective alternative to facility-based services.

What are the community living options under MFP?

The community living options in Medicaid waiver programs are:

- 1115(c) STAR+PLUS Waiver (SPW) provides services in a managed care service area to people 21 or older who are eligible to live in a nursing facility. Services include nursing services, attendant services, medical supplies, therapies, home modifications, emergency response services and adaptive aids.
- Community Based Alternatives (CBA) provides services in a non-managed care service area to people 21 or older who are eligible to live in a nursing facility. Services include nursing services, attendant services, medical supplies, therapies, home modifications, emergency response services and adaptive aids.
- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) provides services to people of any age who have a diagnosis of a related condition. Services include case management, nursing services, physical therapy, respite care, functional life skills training and psychological services.
- Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities Program (DBMD) provides services to people who have deaf-blindness and at least one other disability. Services are designed to increase independence and communication skills, and include adaptive aids, behavioral support, case management, environmental accessibility, habilitation, intervener, orientation and mobility, occupational, physical and speech therapies, housekeeping and nursing services.
- Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) provides services to children under 21 who have medically complex needs. These services include respite, minor home modifications and adaptive aids.
- Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Program provides services to people with a diagnosis of intellectual disability or a related condition. Services include adaptive aids, behavioral support, minor home modifications, therapies, nursing, residential assistance, respite, day habilitation, and supported employment.

- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides community-based services to frail people 55 years of age and older who qualify for nursing facility placement. The program uses a comprehensive care approach and provides an array of services, including in-patient and outpatient medical care, specialty services such as dentistry and podiatry, social services, in-home care, meals, transportation, day activity and housing assistance. PACE is available only in designated areas of El Paso, Amarillo/Canyon and Lubbock.

What happens if I leave the nursing facility before DADS approves me to be served in the community-based waiver program?

You must remain in the nursing facility until a DADS representative approves the move. If you leave the nursing facility before approval you will not receive community services, but your name can be placed on an interest list to receive community services later.

Are there other services to help someone move from the nursing facility to the community?

Yes, DADS provides or coordinates with other agencies for a number of services that support a return to the community.

Relocation services provides statewide relocation assistance to people living in nursing facilities who choose to return to the community. DADS contracts with local organizations to provide intense case management to help people with intense needs move to the community.

Transition services provide a one-time benefit to people living in nursing facilities who move to community settings. Depending on the transition program, the benefit can be used for moving expenses, essential furnishings, security deposits, food, first month's rent and other transition-related expenses.

Housing Voucher Program (HVP) helps people living in nursing facilities who want to move to the community find low-income housing and pay rent. A relocation specialist identifies those are interested in HVP and refers them to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). TDHCA then determines their eligibility.

Nursing Facility Community Transition Teams coordinate services and supports for people living in nursing facilities who have problems with their transition. A DADS case manager, SPW service coordinator, relocation specialist, the nursing facility social worker, long-term care ombudsman, advocate, family member, a transition team member, and/or any other interested party can refer someone with complex transition needs to the regional MFP Nursing Facility Transition Team.

Who does a person contact to receive community services and move out of the nursing facility?

A person living in a nursing facility may contact a relocation specialist by calling the DADS Community Services Regional offices for their county. A list of offices by county is available at www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/DADSServicesByCounty.html

A person may also contact:

- DADS Consumer Rights and Services 1-800-458-9858
- Long-term Care Ombudsman 1-800-252-2412
- Area Agencies on Aging 1-800-252-9240
- Medicaid Hotline 1-800-252-8263