

## What services does the Elderly Waiver program cover?

Medicaid HCBS Elderly Waiver services may include the following:

- Adult day care
- Assistive devices
- Assisted living (on-call)
- Case management
- Emergency response systems
- Home and vehicle modifications
- Home-delivered meals
- Home health care
- Homemaker services
- Mental health outreach
- Nutritional counseling
- Respite care
- Transportation

Access to these services (and more) is available to those who are not Medicaid-eligible, as well. For more information, call LifeLong Links at 866.468.7887 or visit [www.lifelonglinks.org](http://www.lifelonglinks.org).

**Your State and Local Long-Term Care Ombudsmen can be reached at:**

**866.236.1430**

# MEDICAID HCBS Elderly Waiver Program



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## What is the Medicaid Elderly Waiver program?

The Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Elderly Waiver program provides assistance to qualified individuals who are 65 or older and prefer to stay in their own home or another community setting when needing long-term health care services.

Elderly waiver services are based on an individual's needs and are coordinated by a case manager. A service plan may include assistance with cleaning, shopping, medication management, transportation, meals or other tasks. Funding to pay for home modifications (such as adding an accessible wheelchair ramp), a home-delivered meal service or a personal emergency response system might also be available.

## What are the benefits of the Elderly Waiver program?

The Elderly Waiver program provides services and support to older lowans who are medically qualified for the level of care provided at a nursing facility but do not wish to live in a nursing home. The program allows older lowans to age in environments that are familiar and comfortable, while saving money from expensive nursing home costs.

The program also provides individuals with a degree of freedom in terms of what type of care they require and from whom they receive that care, meaning they can hire friends, neighbors and even some family members to provide care, if they so choose. They can also choose to receive attendant care from an assisted living provider.

## Who is eligible for the Elderly Waiver program?

In order to meet eligibility requirements for the Elderly Waiver program, an individual must be:

- An Iowa resident and United States citizen (or a person with legal entry);
- 65 years of age or older;
- In need of a nursing facility or skilled level of care, as determined by an assessment; and
- Eligible for Medicaid.

Medicaid provides medically necessary health care coverage for low-income individuals. Single applicants must have income less than 300% of the federal poverty level (in 2014, this was less than \$2,163/month). There is also a countable asset limit of \$2,000, excluding an applicant's home, car and certain other items. A married applicant whose spouse is not applying has increased flexibility, as he or she can allocate some of their income and assets to the non-applicant spouse.

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