

Support Choice in Choices for Care

Choices for Care provides a long-term package of services and supports to Vermonters in need in the setting that they choose. A primary goal of the Choices for Care program is to have people choose care in home and community based settings, rather than only using skilled nursing facilities. **The Choices for Care program has been instrumental in helping Vermonters live in the setting of their choice and lowering the overall cost of their care.**



We All Want to Choose How and Where We Live

Most Vermonters want to be able to stay in their homes as they get older. **When Vermonters can age in a setting of their choice, we see better health outcomes, stronger communities, and significant savings compared to nursing home care.** Nursing home care costs almost twice as much as home care so our success as a state will depend on ensuring older Vermonters can choose where they live and receive care.

Addressing the Needs of Older Vermonters Improves the Lives of All Vermonters

When we make the investments to help older Vermonters choose how and where they live it improves their lives, strengthens our communities and ensures those systems of support are there when we will need them. **As Vermonters are getting older we need to support those systems which will allow all of us to receive more affordable care, and stay closer to the people and places that we love.** All Vermonters are aging, and we can make this state a place where we can all live, work, and contribute our whole lives.

We ask the legislature to help Vermonters choose where and how they live by making the following changes to the Choices for Care program.

For older Vermonters with high and the highest needs

- *Cover home delivered meals*
- *Provide reasonable annual rate increases for home and community based providers on par with nursing homes*

For older Vermonters with moderate needs

- *Increase flexible funds that allow older Vermonters to decide what services and supports they need to live in the setting of their choice*
- *Allow Vermonters to remain with the case management agency of their choice regardless of where their Moderate Needs funds are administered*
- *Improve the moderate needs waitlist procedures and priorities to provide access to services based on need rather than the date of application to the program*

Choices for Care: A Brief Overview

What is the goal of the Choices for Care Program?

The goal of the Choices for Care program is to provide Vermonters with equal access to either nursing facility care or home and community based services, consistent with their choice.

Levels of Care Within the Program

The program has three Needs Groups that determine the level of service individuals can receive under the program. These groups are determined based on clinical need and financial capacity.

- **Highest Needs Group and High Needs Group:** The Choices for Care High/Highest needs program provides a package of long-term services and supports to Vermonters who are age 18 years and over and need nursing home level of care. People who need nursing home level of care typically require extensive or total assistance daily with personal care. People must meet a clinical and financial eligibility for long-term care Medicaid in Vermont. Eligible people choose where to receive their services: in their home, in their family's home, an Adult Family Care home, Enhanced Residential Care or nursing facility.
- **Moderate Needs Group:** These Individuals require regular supervision and monitoring, have adjusted monthly income that is less than 300% of the supplemental security income payment standard for one person (or couple) in the community after deducting recurring monthly medical expenses, and cannot meet their needs with existing health resources.

Need More Information?

Call the Area Agencies on Aging Senior Helpline at 1-800-642-5119 to be connected to a knowledgeable professional to assist you with questions you may have around Choices for Care, caregiver support, Medicare, transportation, housing, long-term care options, transitioning after a hospital stay, wellness, nutrition counseling, preventing falls, supporting Veterans in their own homes, Meals on Wheels and much more.

