



Who do I contact?

For more information about Choices for Care, or if I want to appeal the functional needs assessment completed, contact the Illinois Department on Aging:

Senior HelpLine:


1-800-252-8966
711 (TRS)

Email: aging.ilsenior@illinois.gov

Illinois Department on Aging

One Natural Resources Way, Suite 100
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
ilaging.illinois.gov

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior Helpline.

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois
IOCI 20-0327 (Rev. 11-19 - 10M) 



State of Illinois
Department on Aging

Choices for are in Illinois

Making decisions about long-term care can be overwhelming. Choices for Care is a program that works with you, your family and any authorized representatives to learn about your options for long-term care services and supports.

Choices may include:

- In-Home Service
- Adult Day Service
- Emergency Home Response Service
- Automated Medication Dispenser
- Caregiver Support
- Home-Delivered Meals
- Other Community Supports & Services
- Supportive Living Program
- Nursing Facility Care
- Choice of No Services at All



State Requirement

Illinois law (Public Act 89-21) requires that all persons age 60 and over who are seeking admission to a long-term care facility be informed of all care options prior to admission, regardless of the individual's income, assets or funding source.

How does the Program work?

Care Coordinators from Care Coordination Units (CCUs) conduct a free Choices for Care screening consultation to assist you, your family and/or any authorized representative in learning about your options for care. Screens are primarily completed in hospitals prior to patient discharge, but they can also be completed in the community, at a Supportive Living Program location or at a Nursing Facility. The screening process gives individuals and their families the opportunity to learn and ask questions about home and community-based services and long-term care services. This may include the services and supports identified within the Community Care Program, the Supportive Living Program— as well as the option of choosing a Nursing Facility— for continuing care. Care Coordinators work at local agencies and have been trained and certified by the Illinois Department on Aging. Case Workers from the Illinois Department of Human Services screen individuals ages 18-59 in the community. CCU Care Coordinators conduct screens for individuals ages 18-59 in hospital settings.

What happens during your Choices for Care consultation?

A Care Coordinator will conduct a functional needs assessment to determine your eligibility for long-term care services. You will be asked about your abilities to perform daily activities, such as personal care, preparing meals, shopping, housework and if you currently have any assistance with these activities. The screen also includes questions which help to identify if there is a “reasonable basis to suspect an Intellectual/Developmental Disability or a Mental Illness.” If either of these is suspected, a more thorough assessment may be conducted to ensure the individual receives the services they need in the setting they qualify for and choose. This will be explained in detail during the screening process. Based on your assessment, the Care Coordinator will provide you with information to assist you with choosing home and community-based services or Nursing Facility care.

Can I still decide to go to a Nursing Facility?

Yes, you can still go to a Nursing Facility, if that is the service you choose, and if you have met the functional eligibility requirements. The consultation is designed to give you more information about your choices, but the final decision about the services you will receive is yours to make.

In instances of short-term Nursing Facility placements for purposes of rehabilitation or respite, Care Coordinators are encouraged to conduct follow-up screenings in the Nursing Facility to facilitate a return to the community, if and when possible. Please let the Care Coordinator know if you would like a follow-up visit.

What about the Cost of the service I Choose?

Costs for services and supports will vary. Depending on your income and assets, you may be eligible for State or federal assistance to pay for your services.