

Assessments for Funded Services



Two programs funded, in total or partial funding, by Medicaid is the Aging Waiver program and the OPTIONS program.

In order to receive services funded through these programs, a referral for services is made to the Area Agency on Aging and a needs assessment is conducted by an AAA (certified) assessor. Referrals can come from many different sources. It may be the individual themselves, a family member, a concerned community member, hospital representative, rehabilitation hospital representative, nursing or personal care home. The AAA Intake staff will gather information from the referent and is forwarded for assessment scheduling.

Since in-home, health-related services are based on need, access begins with a “needs assessment” conducted by a certified assessor. The assessor will conduct an assessment, in the individual’s home, utilizing the level of care assessment tool to determine the current functioning needs of the individual. Once the assessment outcome determination is established, the individual may be eligible for aging services based on further program requirements for eligibility.

Upon meeting eligibility requirements, services through the Aging Waiver program or OPTIONS program are provided to the individual, allowing them to remain in their home of choice for as long as possible.

The Aging Waiver program allows for the provision of an intensive level of care for home-based services. These services are referred to as the Aging Waiver. The program has specific eligibility requirements; however, the goal is to keep individuals in their home of choice for as long as possible, avoiding nursing home placement. It is called a ‘waiver’ program because services are funded through a special waiver of certain medical assistance restrictions allowing payments typically used for nursing home care to be used for home care services.

The OPTIONS program services can serve an individual (age 60 and older) who is not Medicaid eligible. Services are provided through a cost shared system between the individual and the program funds.