



Tell Me More About... Enrolling in Publicly Funded Long-Term Care Programs

Long-term care is any service or support that a person may need as a result of getting older or having a disability that limits their ability to do the things that are part of their daily routine. This includes things such as bathing, getting dressed, making meals, going to work, and paying bills.

Individuals interested in learning more about their options for long-term care should contact their local aging and disability resource center (ADRC) or tribal aging and disability resource specialist (ADRS), where available. ADRC and tribal ADRS services are available to everyone, whether or not they are eligible for publicly funded long-term care or other Medicaid programs. Publicly funded long-term care programs in your area include Family Care and Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS). It may take one to three months to determine eligibility and enroll into a long-term care program.

To be eligible for these long-term care programs, you must:

- Be aged 65 or older, or an adult with a disability.
- Meet applicable requirements for Wisconsin residency.
- Have long-term care service needs that meet program functional eligibility requirements.
- Meet financial eligibility requirements.

People receiving a long-term care benefit may be required to pay a cost share to the long-term care program they choose to enroll in. The income maintenance agency will determine the amount of your cost share, if applicable. The ADRC or tribal ADRS will explain these requirements to you.

Once your eligibility for long-term care has been determined, the ADRC or tribal ADRS will provide information about the options available to you. Options may include enrollment in Family Care or IRIS. You may also be able to choose to receive services through the Medicaid fee-for-service system or to privately pay for services.

Steps to Enrollment

1. Functional Eligibility

The ADRC or tribal ADRS will visit with you to complete the Long-Term Care Functional Screen. The screen will assess your level of need for services and determine your functional eligibility for a publicly funded long-term care program.

2. Financial Eligibility

If you are a full-benefit Medicaid recipient, you will not need to complete the financial application process, but will need to answer some additional questions to ensure that you meet the financial eligibility criteria for publicly funded long-term care programs.

If you are not a current full-benefit Medicaid recipient, the ADRC or tribal ADRS will help you contact an income maintenance agency and provide any necessary assistance with the application that determines your financial eligibility.

3. Enrollment Counseling

The ADRC or tribal ADRS will contact you to share the long-term care options available to you and help you understand what it means to become a member of a publicly funded long-term care program. The ADRC or tribal ADRS will assist you with completing your enrollment or referral documents if you choose to enroll. Your enrollment or referral date will be determined during enrollment counseling. Enrollment dates cannot be backdated.



If you decide to enroll in a long-term care program, the ADRC or tribal ADRS will complete enrollment or referral paperwork, finish the enrollment or referral process, and notify the managed care organization (MCO) or IRIS consultant agency (ICA) of the enrollment or referral date. Within three days after your enrollment date or referral, the MCO or ICA will contact you to begin working on your plan for services and supports.

Publicly Funded Long-Term Care Programs in Your Area

This section provides brief explanations of the programs that may be available where you live. The ADRC or tribal ADRS will share additional information about each of the programs once you are determined functionally and financially eligible.

Family Care

Family Care is a Medicaid long-term care program for frail elders and adults with physical, developmental, or intellectual disabilities. In Family Care, you will receive long-term care services to help you live in your own home whenever possible. Family Care is an innovative program that provides a full range of long-term care services, all through one flexible benefit program. Members of the Menominee and Oneida tribes may be eligible for tribal case management services through Family Care.

If you are found functionally eligible at the non-nursing home level of care, you may only be eligible for a limited set of services.

Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS)

IRIS is a self-directed program for Wisconsin's frail elders and adults with disabilities who meet a nursing home level of care. IRIS is built on the principles of self-determination and self-direction. In IRIS, a budget is established for you based on your long-term care needs. You get to decide what goods, support, and services will help you achieve your goals and, using your budget, you will help create a support and service plan to meet your needs. Your IRIS services will be there to help you live a meaningful life.

