



## The Senior Alliance - Area Agency on Aging 1-C

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# MI Choice Waiver Program

MI Choice is a home and community-based program. Eligible adults must meet financial requirements and are approved medically appropriate for nursing home care to be a MI Choice participant. This program allows the individual to access services in the community along with receiving support in their own home or other residential setting. Each participant can obtain basic Medicaid-covered services and must receive one or more MI Choice Waiver services. The program includes prescreening, assessments, case management, direct purchase of services, and re-assessment contacts.

MI Choice Waiver is a statewide program funded by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The Senior Alliance - Area Agency on Aging 1-C is a MI Choice Waiver agent for the 34 communities of western and southern Wayne County.

## Eligibility Requirements

### Age

- Frail adults 65 years of age or older
- Persons who are physically disabled age 18 or older

### Financial

To be financially eligible for MI Choice, participants must qualify for Medicaid using special income and asset rules. The income limit is 300% of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) allotment set by the federal government each year. Persons currently receiving SSI benefits or Medicaid services meet the program financial criteria.

- Participant's individual income up to \$2,022 per month for 2009. *Amount subject to change.* If the client has a spouse, the spouse's income is not computed in the qualifying amount.
- Allowable assets for an individual client are limited to \$2,000. If the client has a spouse living in the community, the federal Protected Spousal Asset guidelines are utilized. The Protected Spousal Asset is one half of the couple's countable assets – in 2009 it is no less than \$21,912 and not to exceed \$109,560. *Amounts are subject to change.*

### Medical

Medical status must meet the Michigan Medicaid nursing facility level of care determination criteria.

### Service Need

In addition to the other requirements, participants must need at least one MI Choice Waiver service on an ongoing basis. These services include:

- Adult Day Services
- Chore Services
- Counseling
- Environmental Modifications
- Home Delivered Meals
- Homemaker services
- Independent Living Skills training
- In-home Respite Care
- Medical Equipment and Supplies

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- Out-of-home Respite Care
- Personal Care Waiver
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Transportation

### How to apply

Call The Senior Alliance at (734) 722-2830 and ask to speak to an intake worker for the MI Choice Waiver program.

1. They will take the general information and place you on the waiting list.
2. When the applicant's name comes up, a telephone screening is completed.
  - If initial criteria have been met, a nurse will contact you to schedule the initial "pre-determination of eligibility" assessment. Go to step #3.
  - If the applicant does not meet the criteria, information about other TSA programs and community services are given.
3. The initial "pre-determination of eligibility" assessment is completed in the applicant's place of residence. If approved, the in-home assessment is scheduled.
4. In-home assessment is completed by a Registered Nurse and Social Worker who are case managers at The Senior Alliance. The Medicaid application will be completed at this time.