

Pennsylvania's Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) Program

Jonathan Bowman/Joan Bradbury

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Governor's Long-Term Care Council

Agenda

- LIFE History
- LIFE Program Eligibility
- Access to LIFE Services
- LIFE Model of Managed Care
- LIFE Services
- Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)
- Clinical Integration
- Addressing Housing Needs
- Questions

LIFE History in Pennsylvania

- Implemented in Pennsylvania (PA) in 1998
- Called the LIFE Program in PA
 - Living Independence for the Elderly
- Nationally known as PACE
 - Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly

Mission since inception in pilots 40 years ago:

“Enable frail, older adults to live in the community as long as medically and socially feasible.” (42 CFR 460.4)

LIFE Program Eligibility

- Age 55 and older
- Determined Nursing Facility Clinically Eligible (NFCE)
- Determined financially eligible or able to pay privately
- Can live safely in community setting at time of enrollment (with the support of LIFE).
- Reside in area served by LIFE Provider

▶ Access to LIFE Services

- LIFE is the enrollment alternative to Community Health Choices, if available and if the individuals are eligible
- LIFE included in transition information
- Outreach and education efforts will discuss the LIFE program
- IEB will provide LIFE education
- To enroll or for more information:
 - call LIFE provider directly
 - IEB will refer individual to LIFE provider

LIFE Model of Managed Care

- Focus on the frail elderly – “nursing home eligible”
- Integrates Medicare and Medicaid funding through monthly capitation payments to providers
- Risk based model – assumption of full financial risk is incentive to keep the participant as healthy as possible
- An Interdisciplinary Team approach to care management and service delivery. The LIFE Provider IDT is responsible for coordinating and managing all of the participant’s health and supportive service needs.

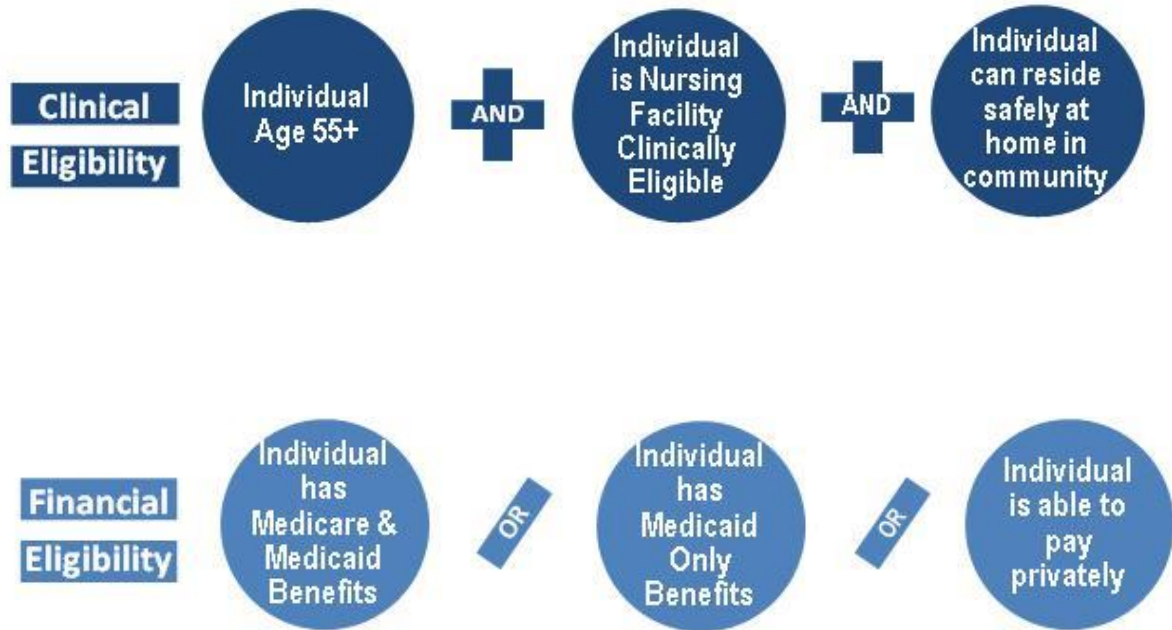
LIFE Services

- Available Services (determined by IDT):
 - Primary Care
 - Community-Based Social Work (MSW)
 - Interdisciplinary Care Management
 - Acute care
 - Long-term care (at home, or in a facility if needed)
 - Pharmaceuticals
 - Behavioral health services
 - In-Home Care and home modifications for accessibility
 - Day Health Centers with rehabilitation, recreation, and personal care services
 - Transportation

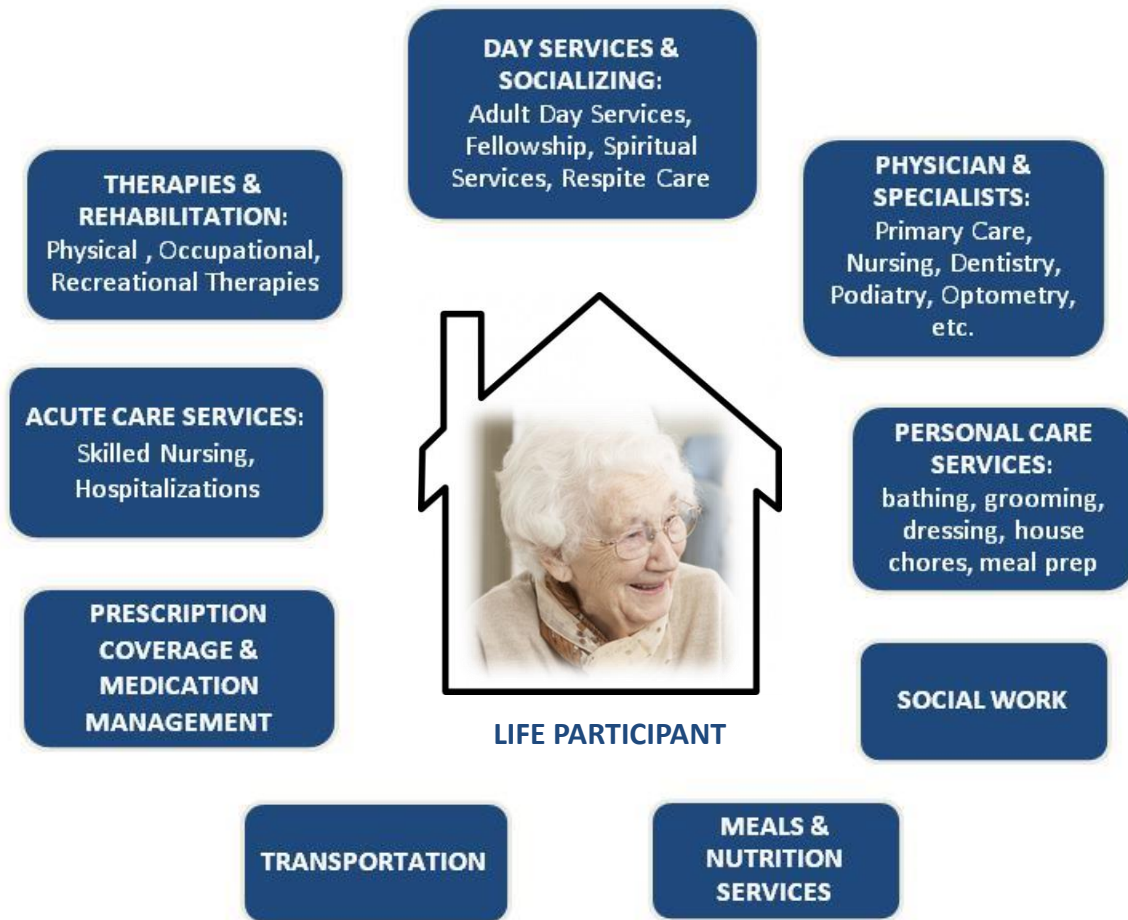
LIFE Program Eligibility



**LIFE PROGRAM
ELIGIBLE**



LIFE Program Model and Services



▶ Distinguishing Components of LIFE

- The participants' health provider (LIFE) insures and manages all care across every setting, whether Medicare or Medicaid covered services
- The Care Manager is a full interdisciplinary team
- The LIFE organization provides most of the LTSS with its own staff
- Medicare and Medicaid benefit limitations and conditions relating to amount, duration, scope of services, deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, or other cost-sharing do not apply. Allows the right care at the right time.

Interdisciplinary, Coordinated, In-Home

IDT Members (Minimum)	Care Coordination (as a team)
Primary Care Physician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial and ongoing assessment
Registered Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine and episodic care planning
Master of Social Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home assessment and visits
Physical Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily update meetings
Occupational Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinating with other providers
Registered Dietician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service coordination and set up
Recreation Therapist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage care transitions
Home Care Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medication Reconciliation
Personal Care Attendant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing Care and Treatment
Driver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient/Family Education & Training
LIFE Center Manager/Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night/weekend on-call

▶ LIFE Integrates Primary Care with LTSS

- Physician immediately knows of problems/changes of condition from caregivers – family, aides, drivers, etc. Likewise, all the above are aware of and alert to changes in patient status and needs from the physician perspective
- Physician knows lifestyle, family and cultural issues from a variety of sources, and can tailor care planning to be highly individualized
- Nursing involved in every case, doing triage, medication reconciliation, home visits, assists MD/NP
- Provider knows patients more thoroughly; time for conversations about goals, to repeat information, gain trust
- LTSS can be tailored to best advantage of preventing nursing home and hospital admissions/readmissions
- PCP/nursing responsible for managing care across settings - participants followed in the hospital and post-acute settings

▶ LIFE Integrates Primary Care with LTSS (cont)

- PCP coordinates care among medical specialists
- Participants have real time access to the center staff and can be brought in to see the physician or others on short notice
- Shift from disease management to symptom management to end of life happens naturally. Palliative care available even though it is not a reimbursable service. Hospice is an open decision rather than an all or nothing option. Studies show this makes people more likely to accept palliative/EOL
- On-call access to primary care at all times
- PT/OT visits home

LIFE Program Providers Address Housing

Innovative ways in which some LIFE Program Providers address housing needs:

- Community partnerships
- Co-location arrangements
- Services and supports agreements
- Public Housing Authority agreements
- HUD Housing arrangements
- Nursing Home Transition (NHT) program

LIFE Participant Testimonies

Link to LIFE Program Video

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/alternativestonursinghomes/lifelivingindependencefortheelderly/>

LIFE Program Information

- DHS website (keyword “LIFE”)
 - www.dhs.pa.gov
- Pennsylvania LIFE Provider Alliance
 - www.palifeprograms.org
- National PACE Association
 - www.npaonline.org
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 - www.cms.hhs.gov/PACE

Contact Information

Jonathan Bowman

Office of Long-Term Living, LIFE Program

717-772-1145

RA-PWLIFE@pa.gov

Joan Bradbury

PA LIFE Provider Alliance (PALPA)

717-283-0488

info@palpaonline.org

Questions

