

Providing links to
Support Services
to help you live
independently in your
home and in your community

Qualifying for Services

We're Here to Help

INNOVATION STARTS HERE™
Lackawanna
County

Promoting the
Quality of Life
For Older Adults & Adults
with Physical
Disabilities

How Do I Qualify for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)?

How you qualify for HCBS programs differs depending on the program, but each program has general eligibility requirements that must be met.

General Eligibility

Your medical and service needs will be evaluated by the AAA to determine if you are eligible for services. This includes a level of care assessment and a determination of financial eligibility.

For Medical Assistance Waiver Programs, including the Aging Waiver and the LIFE Program, the AAA can help you through the assessment and enrollment process.

For HCBS not funded by Medical Assistance, such as Lottery funded services and the Family Caregiver Support Program, the AAA will determine if you are eligible. Depending on your income and/or resources, services may be provided free of charge or with a reasonable co-payment.

If you are under 60 and have a disability, the County Office for the physically disabled, the local Center for Independent Living or disability service organization can also assist you.

Our staff is comprised of experienced and trained professionals who are dedicated to empowering and advocating for the rights of older adults and adults with disabilities, while supporting their family and other caregivers.

Today, whether you are over the age of 60 or have a physical disability, there are services available to assist you in living independently in your home and community.

These services are usually referred to as Home and Community Based Services. Whether or not you are eligible for these services depends on your financial situation, your need for support and whether services are available.

If you would like to know more about the services we offer, or if you would like us to connect you to other services, contact us at:

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County

Area Agency on Aging

**200 Adams Avenue • 3rd Floor
Scranton, PA 18503**

Ph: (570) 963-6740 Fax: (570) 963-6401

Or visit us under
the Departments/Agencies section
at www.lackawannacounty.org



Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging

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The Many Ways We Can Help

Senior Community Centers

We support senior community centers throughout the county where older citizens can gather for social activities, recreation, education, creative arts, health, wellness and exercise programs and nutritious meals.

Ombudsman and Legal Assistance

We provide access to Ombudsman services designed to support and empower consumers of long-term living facilities. The Ombudsman attempts to resolve individual complaints involving long-term care service, while working to improve and enhance the long-term living system. We also provide legal assistance counseling to older adults through the Elderly Law Project.

Adult Daily Living Centers

Also referred to as adult day care, these centers provide a structured program of social, recreational, nutrition and health services for older adults who are not able to live independently on a full time basis. This service is especially valuable to families and other caregivers who work outside of the home or who wish to take a break from the daily rigors of 24-hour caregiving responsibilities.

Family Caregiver Support Program

The major focus of this program is to reinforce the care being given to frail family members at home. If you are income eligible, you may receive reimbursement to help with out-of-pocket expenses, for items ranging from respite care to adult briefs. You may also qualify for a one-time grant for a home modification or assistive device to accommodate your loved one.



OPTIONS Program

The Pennsylvania Lottery is the only lottery in the country that exclusively targets all of its proceeds to programs for older residents. The OPTIONS program, which is funded by lottery dollars, provides access to an array of home and community based services (HCBS) such as home health, personal care, home delivered meals, personal emergency response system, adult day care and senior companion services for individuals age 60+ who experience some degree of frailty in their physical or mental health status. There may be a cost-share applied to OPTIONS services.

Aging Waiver Program

This program enables eligible participants to continue to live in their homes and communities with support and services. In order to qualify, you must meet eligibility requirements including a level of care assessment and a determination of financial eligibility. There is no cap on services, no cost share and no contributions allowed in this program.

LIFE Program

Living Independence for Elders (LIFE) is offered locally by LIFE Geisinger. This managed care program offers medical and supportive services as a diversion to nursing home placement for individuals age 55+ who meet specific financial and clinical eligibility criteria.

Nursing Home Transition Program

Regardless of age, if you or someone you love resides in a nursing facility and would like to return home, support exists that can make that happen. Either the AAA or the Northeast PA Center for Independent Living can provide information about additional resources that can be used to pay for the necessary expenses to help you move back into the community and if necessary to help arrange for home and community based services to support you during and after your transition.

Have Questions? Need Services?

Contact the AAA so we can answer your questions and link you to the array of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) available in our community.

In addition to the services described, the AAA provides access to services and programs that:

- help you navigate the Medicare Program and Medicare Part D (APPRISE)
- protect you from abuse, neglect or exploitation
- provide you with long-term living counseling
- help you transition from a nursing home back to home

Additional Services:

- Protective Services
- Pre-Admission Assessment
- Representative Payee
- Guardianship
- Transportation
- Home Delivered Meals

Call us. *We can help.*