

## Community First Services and Supports (CFSS)

***What are community first services and supports?***

The Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) program was created by the 2013 Legislature (see [Laws 2013, chapter 108](#), article 7, section 49) and will replace the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program. CFSS will be available statewide to eligible individuals to provide assistance and support to persons with disabilities, the elderly, and others with special health care needs living independently in the community.

***How does CFSS differ from the PCA program?***

CFSS is intended to be more accessible and flexible than the PCA program. CFSS will facilitate transition out of institutional care, prevent or delay future admissions, and support community living. CFSS will assist participants to recover and/or gain skills to increase and maintain community stability, use technology or home modifications to decrease the need for human assistance when appropriate, avoid the use of inappropriate services, and increasingly direct their own services. CFSS will allow for testing of innovative models of coordinating services for children receiving services across home, school, and community.

CFSS changes the structure of fiscal support entities under the PCA program to support people hiring and directing their own staff. CFSS includes a budget model that allows participants to exercise more responsibility and control over the services and supports described and budgeted within the CFSS service-delivery plan. An agency-provider model is available for participants who are unable to direct their own services.

***Who will be eligible for CFSS?***

CFSS is available to a person who meets one of the following criteria:

- is a recipient of Medical Assistance (MA)
- is a recipient of the alternative care program
- is a MA waiver recipient (elderly waiver, developmental disabilities waiver, brain injury waiver, community alternative care waiver, or community alternatives for disabled individuals waiver)
- has medical services identified in a participant's individualized education program and is eligible for MA special education services

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria above, a person must also:

- require assistance and be determined dependent in one activity of daily living (ADL) or Level I behavior based on an assessment;
- not be a family support grant recipient; and
- live in the person's own apartment or home (not a hospital or institutional setting).

***What services will be provided?***

CFSS services include:

- assistance with ADLs, including eating, toileting, grooming, dressing, bathing, mobility, positioning, and transferring;
- assistance with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), such as meal planning, preparation, and cooking; shopping for food, clothing, or other essential items; laundry; housecleaning; assistance with medications; managing finances; communicating needs and preferences during activities; arranging supports; and assistance with traveling around and participating in the community;
- assistance with health-related procedures and tasks that can be delegated or assigned by a state-licensed health care or mental health professional and performed by a support worker;
- assistance to acquire, maintain, or enhance the skills necessary for the participant to accomplish ADLs, IADLs, or health-related procedures and tasks;
- expenditures for items, services, supports, or environmental modifications, or goods, including assistive technology;
- observation and redirection for behavior symptoms when there is a need for assistance;
- back-up systems or mechanisms, such as the use of pagers or other electronic devices, to ensure continuity of the participant's services and supports;
- transition costs for participants moving out of an institution and into the community; and
- services provided by a support specialist that are chosen by the participant.

***Who will provide CFSS services?***

CFSS will be provided by support specialists and support workers who will be employed by agency providers or the participant. Support workers must enroll with the Department of Human Services, complete a background study, and meet all other requirements. Agency providers must be MA-enrolled health care program providers and meet all applicable provider standards and requirements, including compliance with background study requirements, reporting maltreatment of minors and vulnerable adults, and providing the participant with service-related rights.

***How will CFSS be funded?***

CFSS will be a federal-state funded service, with 50 percent paid with federal MA funds and 50 percent paid with state general funds.

***When will CFSS become effective?***

CFSS is effective upon federal approval but no earlier than April 1, 2014. The services will begin 90 days after federal approval or April 1, 2014, whichever is later.

**For more information:** Contact legislative analyst Danyell Punelli at 651-296-5058.

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