



Wisconsin's Family Care Caps - What does it mean?

The Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups would appreciate your help in distributing the following "citizens information guide" about the Long-Term Care Enrollment Caps that the Walker administration placed on Family Care when the State Budget was passed last June.

We would also like to encourage organizations, ADRC's and County Elderly Benefit Specialists to post the document on their websites. This way people who visit those websites can download it and/or send it via their newsletters or to citizens who have questions.

Thank you! We appreciate your help in getting this important information out to the citizens of Wisconsin who are impacted by the Family Care Caps.

Sincerely,

A. J. Nino Amato
President / Executive Director
Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups

What Is the Long-term Care Enrollment Cap and How Do People Get Service Today?

The State Budget for 2011-13 puts limits on the number of people that can be enrolled in the Long-Term Care and Supports Programs: Family Care, Partnership, PACE and IRIS. These programs all provide care management and/or self direction for an array of services for persons that meet the level of care provided in a nursing home or intermediate care facility. The limit, or "cap," established on July 1, 2011 is 43,444 persons, approximately the number of adults with disabilities and elders that were enrolled on that day.

* How Do I Get On a Waiting List? Waiting lists for long-term services and supports are maintained by the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs). To be placed on a waiting list, a person must apply to their ADRC and be eligible for a program based on the results of a complete functional screen conducted in person. ADRCs have wait list policies prescribed by the state and refined by their boards.

* How Can People Get Service If There Is a Wait List? While there is an enrollment cap, a person on the waitlist can be served when there is attrition in the programs, or the person has an urgent need, as long as the person meets

eligibility criteria.

* What Is Attrition? Across the state, several hundred people leave the long-term care programs each month, due to loss of eligibility, moving out of state, death or other reasons. When individuals disenroll from the program they have been in, this is called "attrition," the natural reduction in numbers of persons in programs. Under the cap, whenever there is attrition in an area served by an ADRC, a person on the wait list can be enrolled in a program. ADRCs first serve the persons that have been waiting longest in most cases, based on their written policy approved by the state.

* What Is Urgent Need? The state has established a budget for "urgent" needs. If an individual has an urgent need for services due to loss of a caregiver, a dangerous living situation or other criteria, the person can be enrolled by the ADRC in the program of his/her choice as long as they are functionally and financially eligible, regardless of whether there has been any attrition, and regardless of their place on the wait list. Individuals in need of urgent services are those that cannot wait for the program due to the immediate severity of their needs. The ADRC is responsible for determining whether an applicant meets the State's urgent need criteria.

* How Does the State Monitor the Use of Urgent Funding? The ADRCs report to the Department whenever they apply the urgent funding criteria to enroll a person. The state does not "approve" urgent enrollments; this responsibility is delegated to the ADRCs. The ADRCs also report monthly on the numbers of disenrollments, enrollments, moves and relocations. In this way the state can monitor the enrollment cap on a statewide basis.

* For How Long Can a Person Keep the Urgent Funding? The individual is permanently enrolled in the program of his/her choice (IRIS, Family Care, Partnership/PACE) whether that enrollment was possible because of attrition or urgent funding. The ADRC is responsible for calculating the amount of attrition and the amount of urgent enrollments. The ADRC is responsible to use attrition to replace the urgent funding periodically, in order to stay within the cap. This does not affect people enrolled in programs; it is an accounting mechanism.

* When There Is Attrition in the Program, Does the Next Person Served Have to Enroll in the Same Program, or Must the Next Person Be in the Same Population Group? No. No. The next person served may be a person that is elderly or an adult (age 18 +) with a disability. The next individual served selects the program in which he/she enrolls, regardless of which program experienced attrition.

* Are Individuals Able to Relocate from a Nursing Home or ICF-MR to a Community-Based Program while There Is a Cap on Enrollment? Yes. If a person who has resided in the facility for 90 days or more wants to enroll in one of the four LTC programs, they are able to move into a community location with supports and services. The cap does not limit the ability of people to relocate from an institution.

For additional information about the enrollment caps and how they are

implemented, people are encouraged to contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center or Elderly Benefit Specialist in their local area.

* Prepared by the Department of Health Services for distribution by Aging & Disability Resource Centers and partner organizations 10/21/2011.

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