

Residential Care and Assisted Living

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Assisted Living Residence?

Assisted Living Residences (ALR) are state licensed residences that combine housing, health and services to support resident independence and aging in place. The ALF list is found at https://dlp.vermont.gov/sites/dlp/files/documents/alr_list_by_county.pdf

What is a Level III Residential Home?

Residential care homes are state licensed group living arrangements designed to meet the needs of people who cannot live independently and usually do not require the type of care provided in a nursing home. Level III homes provide nursing overview, but not full-time nursing care. The list of Level III Residential Care Homes is found at https://dlp.vermont.gov/sites/dlp/files/documents/rch_list_by_counties.pdf

What is ACCS?

Assistive Community Care Services (ACCS) is a Vermont Medicaid benefit that pays for services to eligible Vermonters who live in participating Licensed Level III Residential Care Homes or Assisted Living Residences.

How do I qualify for ACCS?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a Vermont resident age 65 or older or be 18 or older and have a disability.
- Need ACCS services. For example, you need help managing your medications, need assistance with bathing, dressing or need nursing care.
- Live in a participating Licensed Level III Residential Care Home or Assisted Living Residence; and,
- Meet the income and resource criteria for VT Medicaid ACCS program.

What will it Cost?

The cost of ACCS services is covered by Vermont Medicaid. The care home will bill Medicaid for the services, *but you are responsible for paying for room and board directly to the home.* You're entitled to keep a minimum personal needs allowance. Details about the cost and your rights will be in your Admission Agreement with the home.

How do I apply for ACCS?

- Find a participating Licensed Level III Residential Care Home or Assisted Living Residence that has the space and ability to meet your needs. Schedule a visit to tour some homes and meet the staff. Consider the location and whether it is near friends, family or in your chosen community. Here are some considerations and questions to ask:
 - What are the visiting hours?
 - Is there an elevator?
 - What is the smoking policy?
 - Are pets allowed?
 - Will I have to share a room or bathroom?
 - How much space will I have to bring personal belongings?
- If you are not already on VT Medicaid, you must apply to the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA). Call 1-855-899-9600.
 - Applications can be found on the Green Mountain Care website. They will determine your eligibility for VT Medicaid.
<http://www.greenmountaincare.org/apply-online-health-insurance>
- If you are not currently receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, contact the Social Security Administration to determine whether you are eligible for SSI in a Level III Residential Care Home or Assisted Living Residence.
 - Information can be found here: <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11128.pdf>

What is Enhanced Residential Care?

Choices for Care offers long-term services and supports to adult Vermonters who need nursing home level of care and who need Medicaid to help pay for the care. If an individual is found clinically and financially eligible, they can choose where they want to receive their services. The ERC option provides 24-hour care and supervision in approved VT licensed Level III Residential Care Homes or Assisted Living Residences. Services include personal care, housekeeping, meals, activities, nursing oversight and medication management. The individual pays for room and board. For more information or a list of ERC providers look online at: <https://dlp.vermont.gov/> and here: [Microsoft Word - Enhanced Residential Care At A Glance.doc \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Where can I find more information about Choices for Care?

[Information at a Glance | Adult Services Division \(vermont.gov\)](#)

How do I apply for Long Term Care Medicaid?

VERMONT'S LONG-TERM CARE MEDICAID PROGRAM INCLUDES: Choices for Care, Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services, Brain Injury Program, and Intensive Home and Community Based Treatment.

What help is available?

If you are found eligible, Long-Term Care Medicaid will help you pay for long-term care services in the following settings:

- Your home or the home of another person;
- An approved residential care home or assisted-living facility; or
- An approved nursing home.

Who is eligible for Long Term Care Medicaid?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a Vermont resident;
- Be at least 65 years old, at least 18 years old with a physical disability, or eligible for Medicaid under Medicaid for Children and Adults rules;
- Meet the financial criteria; and
- Meet the clinical criteria for nursing home level of care.

More information and the application can be found here:

[Long-Term Care | Department of Vermont Health Access](#)

Who do I Call for Help?

Your local Area Agency on Aging can help you find a participating home and apply for Medicaid and SSI benefits. Call 1-800-642-5119.