



DHSS General Relief Assisted Living Home Program

Waitlist Implementation FAQs

March 2019

DHSS Division of Senior & Disabilities Services will implement a waitlist for General Relief Assisted Living Home (GRALH) benefits March 1, 2019. Requests for assistance from this program currently outpace available funding. An increased number of applicants, as well as recipients participating in the program for longer periods of time have both contributed to the shortfall. The waitlist will be in effect indefinitely and will not affect people currently receiving GRALH benefits. The program provides assisted living home benefits to eligible adults, including vulnerable adults, who require the protective oversight of an assisted living home.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the General Relief Assisted Living Home Care program?

The purpose of the General Relief Assisted Living Home Care program is to provide assisted living home services to eligible adults, including vulnerable adults, who require the protective oversight of an assisted living home. The General Relief Assisted Living Home Care program is intended to be a short-term program. The \$70/day payment rate for the program is set in statute AS 47.25.120(d), and is paid fully by the state unless the recipient is able to provide a co-payment amount.

2. Why are we going to put people on a waitlist?

Requests for assistance from this program currently outpace available funding. An increased number of applicants, as well as recipients participating in the program for longer periods of time have both contributed to the shortfall. A waitlist allows SDS to prioritize how new applicants are selected. The priority guidelines for the waitlist are contained in Alaska Administrative Code (7 AAC 47.465).

3. When will the waitlist be started?

All complete applications that have yet to be approved by March 1, as well as complete applications received after March 1, will be placed on the waitlist according to the priority guidelines.

4. What are the priority guidelines?

The priority guidelines for the waitlist are contained in Alaska Administrative Code 7 AAC 47.465:

- 1) Individuals who the department has determined are vulnerable and in need of protective placement under AS 47.24.017(d);

- 2) Individuals who will be discharged directly from an institution for mental disease, a facility operated by the Department of Corrections, a hospital, or a long-term care facility;
- 3) All other individuals.

5. What about people who already receiving General Relief Assisted Living Home Care services?

Current recipients of General Relief Assisted Living Home Care benefits are not expected to be affected at this time.

6. Will the General Relief Assisted Living Home Care program continue to accept applications?

Yes, the General Relief Assisted Living Home Care program will still accept applications, review them, and place complete applications on the waitlist in the order of the date the application was received within that preference category. Incomplete applications will be returned with instructions on resubmitting with missing information within 20 days.

7. How are people taken off the waitlist?

SDS will select applicants from the waitlist in priority order as funding allows. SDS will notify selected applicants that the applicant has 20 business days to confirm with SDS that he or she still would like to receive the benefit. If the selected applicant has been on the waitlist for more than 60 days, additional documentation may be requested to verify the applicant still qualifies for the program.

8. Will the waitlist still be necessary when the Division receives funding for the program in Fiscal Year 2020?

As openings become available, applicants on the wait list will be selected in priority order based on the guidelines in Alaska Administrative Code 7 AAC 47.465.

9. What are the procedures for implementing the waitlist?

SDS will create the waitlist using existing complete applications in preference category and date order that existing applications were received.

For individuals who apply for services after March 1, 2019, SDS will accept applications and review them for completeness. Complete applications will be placed on the waitlist according to date of application within applicable priority level.

10. What other resources are available for applicants who need assistance securing Housing?

Applicants should work with their local Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to review options for services. The ADRC can assist applicants to apply for Home and Community Based waiver services. Applicants must meet a level of care and Medicaid eligibility criteria. Here is the link to the ADRC:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/adrc/default.aspx>

Section 811 PRA Program (Project-Based Rental Assistance) is a partnership between the State of Alaska and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. This is a permanent supportive housing program to provide participants with safe and affordable housing, along with the necessary services and supports to ensure participants maintain independent community living.

Sponsoring agencies are available to assist applicants to apply for the program. For further information:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dbh/pages/initiatives/integratedhousing/hud-811.aspx>