

General Relief Assisted Living Home Program



**PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND
ASSESSMENT PROJECT**

**SENIOR AND DISABILITIES SERVICES
6/7/16**

What is General Relief?



**HISTORY,
PURPOSE
AND
CURRENT USES**

General Relief ALH Program Purpose



- Intended to be used in conjunction with Adult Protective Services when an adult experiencing abuse, neglect or exploitation needs a protective placement
- Designed as a temporary safety net program for vulnerable adults who need and cannot pay for 24/7 care
- Is a program “of last resort” meaning all other payment and program options must first be exhausted before using General Relief, including a person’s private income and informal supports

Current Uses



- GR is still used by APS as a payment for protective placements.
- GR has grown to be used as a payment source for assisted living home care for other agencies.
- The use of GR as a housing program rather than for assisted living home care is an incorrect practice.
- It is thought that many people served through the GR program could live more independently if supportive housing was available.

Who uses General Relief?



**RESIDENTS SERVED
WHERE THEY LIVE NOW
DEMOGRAPHICS**

What the General Relief census looks like



In May of 2015:

- **541 people were approved for the General Relief ALH program**
 - 440 - Anchorage Municipality
 - 34 - MatSu Borough
 - 21 - Fairbanks or North Pole
 - 19 - Kenai Peninsula or Kodiak
 - 15 - Southeast Alaska
 - >10 - Dillingham
 - >10 - Tanana
 - >10 - Galena
 - >10 - Delta Junction

What are the General Relief demographics?



- Residents are from all over the State of Alaska.
- The average monthly census is 543 approved people.
- The average length of stay is 274 days.
- The average annual payment by SOA is \$23,000.
- In May 2015:
 - 273 residents are under 60
 - 268 are over 60
 - 209 are female
 - 332 are male

What conditions do the residents have?



- We do know that 2/3rds of General Relief residents (about 350 people) have a Serious Mental Illness as a diagnosis.

Income qualifications



- Residents may make no more than \$2000 a month in income.
- Some types of income are excluded, similar to DPA rules.
- A resident may have no more than \$2000 in assets.
- Some types of assets are excluded, similar to DPA rules.
- Residents must agree to pay all of their included income for their ALH care except for a \$100 monthly spending allowance.

Who provides the ALH services?



TYPES OF PROVIDERS
BASIC STEPS TO BECOME A PROVIDER
RATES

Types of ALH Providers



General Relief pays for two categories of Assisted Living Home care according to the home's licensure:

- **Senior Services**

- ✦ A diagnosed disability or chronic health condition is the primary diagnosis of residents. Despite the name of the category, these homes serve people 18 and older.

- **Mental Health/Developmental Disability Services (usually separate homes serve these two populations)**

- ✦ A mental health or intellectual or developmental delay diagnosis is the primary diagnosis of residents.

Steps to Become a General Relief Provider



- Obtain a License to provide Assisted Living Home services in the State of Alaska(Health Care Services).
- Sign a Provider Agreement with Senior and Disabilities Services General Relief Program (SDS).
- Sign paperwork with the State of Alaska to receive a provider number for payment (SDS).
- It is not necessary to become certified as a Medicaid provider to receive General Relief payment, but homes can have mixed payment sources.

General Relief Rates



The minimum daily rate is \$70 a day, set in regulation.

Occasionally, an augmented payment rate is authorized for services that go above and beyond the services expected to be provided by an Assisted Living Home.

Residents who require an augmented rate have complex or severe conditions that require additional staffing or materials to be provided daily to maintain their health and safety.

Future of General Relief



**BUDGET
OPERATING COSTS
811 SUPPORTED HOUSING PROGRAM**

General Relief Budget



- General Relief is funded out of General Funds.
- The FY15 budget is \$8 million This year, the program overran its budget and a supplemental request was approved to fill the gap (approximately \$500K).
- This year the supplemental request was denied and is not expected to be approved in the future.
- The FY16 budget is \$7.2 million.
- The FY17 budget has not yet been determined.

General Relief Staff



- Three permanent full time positions are dedicated to GR at Senior and Disabilities Services.
- Two of these positions also provide part-time administrative assistance to the APS program.
- The technical staff are able to process applications, renewals, and provider agreements.
- The supervisor processes eligibility, handles complex problems and attends fair hearings.

811 Supportive Housing



- 811 provides five years of federal funding for housing vouchers and support services for people to maintain housing.
- The Alaska application identified GR residents as the target group to transition to supportive housing
- Inclusion focus, scattered apartments
- An assessment has been selected and transition program funded to assist with identifying and assisting residents who wish to move
- 60 people are expected to transition in FY17

Future of General Relief



- Only people who need 24/7 care will be accepted with the exception of short term APS placements.
- Renewals will be reviewed on a regular basis and must meet eligibility criteria at least every 6 months to continue.
- Once budgeted funds are allocated, the program will implement a waitlist.
- More community housing and treatment options will be needed as the General Relief program becomes more strict.

Assessment Project



WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Why are the assessments needed?



- **People who can and want to move into independent and supportive housing should move to that setting.**
- **SDS and the GR program supports people in meeting their independence goals including living in a more independent environment, but we do not know who wants to move.**

Why are the assessments needed? cont.



- **Additional resources are now available to help people transition out of GR.**
 - For a limited time, 811 housing vouchers are available specifically for GR residents.
 - Transition funds are also available to help people with moving and setting up a new residence.

Why are the assessments needed? cont.



- **Senate Bill 74 was signed authorizing the Department of Health and Social Services to find better ways to deliver services.**
- **General Relief ALH program is being considered for conversion to a Medicaid program.**
 - The planning for this is happening now.
 - About 90% of GR clients have Medicaid.
 - We don't know very much about our GR clients' service needs.

Assessment Project



**WHAT QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED?
WHO WILL BE CONDUCTING THE
ASSESSMENTS?**

What questions will be asked?



- **The assessment has three parts:**
 - 1. Housing Preference Survey**
 - 2. TBI Screening Tool (short version)**
 - 3. DLA-20 Assessment**

Housing Preference Survey



- **Asks where the person would like to live**
- **Asks what types of housing the person prefers**
- **Asks what types of support services the person wants**

TBI Short Screening



- A short list of questions to determine if a person has experienced or may have a Traumatic Brain Injury
- Asks about history of head injuries or traumas
- Does not diagnose, but flags for medical follow up

DLA-20



- **Short for Daily Living Assessment- 20**
- **Asks about a person's functioning in 20 life skill areas including**
 - Self care
 - Housing
 - Medical care
 - Several other key areas of functioning

Who is completing the assessments?



- **SDS has contracted with Agnew::Beck to complete the assessments.**
 - This company has completed a phone GR survey in the past and is familiar with the program.
 - Staff hired to complete the assessments will be certified to complete the DLA-20 and have experience working with seniors and people with disabilities.
 - Agnew::Beck staff will be meeting in person with each GR resident.
 - They will also talk with ALH staff and any legal decision maker for the resident.

Who is completing the assessments?



- **DHSS will also train some internal staff or other grantees.**
 - SDS staff will focus on areas outside of the MatSu and Anchorage areas.
 - SDS staff will assess new residents or residents that exceed the contracted number of people.
 - DBH will work with its grantees to administer the assessment for their clients.
 - ACMHS is currently completing these assessments for their clients.

Assessment Project



NEXT STEPS

Next Steps



- Agnew::Beck and SDS staff will be contacting ALHs to set up interview times for residents.
- The assessments will be conducted between now and October.
- ACMHS will continue to assess their clients on the client's treatment plan schedule.

Next Steps



- If you are a legal decision maker or ALH staff member you can help. When Agnew::Beck or SDS contacts the ALH, please share the following information:
 - If the resident is still in the ALH,
 - Current legal decision maker,
 - Best day/time to visit the home to complete the assessment and
 - Remind the resident that they will have someone visit to talk with them.

Next Steps



- **SDS will compile all of the information and identify the residents want and are able to move into supportive or independent housing and the residents that need long term ALH care.**
- **Existing case managers or a transition planner will be assigned to help the person move into a more independent setting.**
- **Residents that need long term assisted living home care, will have their information aggregated to look at possible Medicaid programs that could serve them in the future.**

Questions?



**This presentation will be available on the GR website
in a few days.**

**Additional questions can be sent to
kelda.barstad@alaska.gov**

Thank you for participating!