Special Needs Assisted Living Voucher Residence Program for Persons with Dementia

Frequently Asked Questions

Program Questions

1. What are the goals of the program?
   - To promote aging in place by allowing individuals with Alzheimer’s Disease or dementia living in Special Needs Assisted Living Residences (SNALRS) to remain in the least restrictive, most integrated setting.
   - To reduce unnecessary discharges to skilled nursing facilities before that level of care is required which, in turn, could delay or eliminate enrollment into Medicaid.

2. Can we find more information about the program on the DOH website?
   Please visit: https://www.health.ny.gov/facilities/adult_care/voucher/.

3. Where can I submit questions and completed documents to, including the facility attestation form?

   All questions and documents related to the program can be sent to ALTCteam@health.ny.gov.

Eligibility Questions

4. Does the voucher payment affect the individual’s supplemental security income (SSI)?

   A person with SSI is categorically eligible for the Medicaid program which means that they are not eligible for the program.

5. If an individual already has an agreement with the SNALR to pay a reduced rate due to a financial need, would the individual be eligible to apply for the program?

   As long as the individual meets the eligibility criteria as outlined at https://www.health.ny.gov/facilities/adult_care/voucher/docs/eligibility.pdf, they would be eligible to apply for the program.

6. What if a person is already on Medicaid, are they eligible for this program?

   Individuals that are on Medicaid are not eligible for this program.

7. Can the time the resident lived in the Assisted Living Residence count towards the one-year residency requirement?

   Yes, provided that at the time of application they reside in a Special Needs Assisted Living Residence.

8. How much assistance will I be eligible for?

   The dollar amount of the voucher depends on the resident’s ability to contribute to their monthly service fee. The law authorizes voucher amounts of up to 75 percent of the regional monthly cost of a SNALR. Please see the chart below.
If a resident can contribute 0 – 25 percent of their monthly service fee, the voucher payment is 75 percent of the average regional monthly cost.

If a resident can contribute 26 – 50 percent of their monthly service fee, the voucher payment is 50 percent of the average regional monthly cost.

If a resident can contribute 51 percent or above of their monthly service fee, the voucher payment is 25 percent of the average regional monthly cost.

If the calculated voucher amount is greater than the difference between the resident’s service fee and their household income, the voucher amount will be adjusted to cover that difference only.

9. Will individuals participating in this program be allowed to access their hospice benefit?
   Yes.

SNALR Facility Questions

10. When can facilities expect voucher payments to be made?
    Facilities will receive voucher payments on a monthly basis through the Statewide Financial System (SFS).

11. If my facility is not currently enrolled in the program, how can they enroll?
    Facilities interested in enrolling may contact the Department and staff at ALTCteam@health.ny.gov.

12. Can a SNALR that is not at 100% occupancy participate in this program?
    Yes.

13. What is a State Financial System (SFS) Vendor ID?
    If your organization is receiving reimbursement by the State for criminal history record checks for future employees, you have a 10-digit SFS vendor identification number. Voucher payments will be made to facilities using the SFS vendor identification number. Please check with your facility’s accounting or finance department if you are unsure of your SFS Vendor Identification.

14. Will the department be supplying the resident agreement addendum?
    No, however we will provide an example to follow.

15. If the resident does not contribute their portion of the monthly payment, would there be grounds for discharge?
    The provider must follow acceptable practices regarding the termination of a residency agreement. Those requirements are outlined at 18NYCRR Section 487.5 and 488.5.