

Office of Long-Term Living Services

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Office of Long-Term Living

September 26, 2018



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

LIFE PROGRAM

Living Independence for the Elderly (LIFE) is Pennsylvania's first model of a long-term care managed care program that provides a comprehensive, all-inclusive package of long-term care, acute care, behavioral health and prescription drug services through an interdisciplinary approach to qualified individuals. The program is known nationally as the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA). The BBA created PACE as a permanent coverage option within the Medicare program and enabled states to provide PACE services to Medicaid beneficiaries under their Medicaid state plan. In Pennsylvania PACE is called LIFE and is authorized under the federal regulation implementing PACE statutory requirements. The Commonwealth has offered LIFE programs since 1998.

To be eligible for the LIFE Program, an individual must be: age 55 or older; medically eligible to participate in the LIFE Program; financially eligible for Medicaid or be able to pay privately; residing in an area served by a LIFE Program provider; and able to safely be served in the community as determined by a LIFE Program provider.

The LIFE Program is uniquely designed to provide elderly participants who would otherwise have few alternatives other than nursing facility placement, a comprehensive, integrated array of services administered through an interdisciplinary care team to enable the individual to live in a community environment. Participants receive service integration that is paid through Medicare and Medicaid on a per member per month basis, which provides the opportunity for better delivery of coordinated care for the individual and the providers. For most LIFE Program participants who are

eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare, there are little to no costs for services including prescription drugs, various in-home services, day center access, transportation and more.

Every LIFE Program has a day center located in the community that is staffed by LIFE doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals. The LIFE providers are responsible for providing transportation to and from the day centers, as well as arranging transportation for medical appointments. The day centers are places where a participant can see his or her LIFE doctor or nurse; receive physical, occupational, speech, or cognitive therapy; receive therapy and counseling; and participate in recreational and cultural activities.

To be an authorized LIFE provider and operate a LIFE center, an organization must be enrolled in the Medical Assistance program, meet the requirements included in the federal PACE regulations, and have an executed PACE Program Agreement with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS also has an additional agreement with the 19 LIFE providers operating in Pennsylvania covering items that reinforce the PACE Program Agreement.

To ensure the viability of the LIFE Program in Pennsylvania, DHS has committed to a one percent rate increase effective January 1, 2019. The Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) has also committed to expand the program statewide. Currently, 15 counties do not have LIFE programs. OLTL intends to seek competitive applications this fall with the goal of having LIFE services available in all areas of the state by 2022.

DHS is dedicated to having the LIFE Program continue as an enrollment option for eligible individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to present information on OLTL's LIFE Program. I am happy to address any questions you may have about this information. Thank you.