

Community First Services and Supports (CFSS)

October 2025

What are community first services and supports?

The Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) program is a statewide program to assist eligible people with accomplishing activities of daily living, instrumental activities of daily living, and health-related procedures and tasks. It was created by the 2013 Legislature (see [Minn. Stat. § 256B.85](#)) and is replacing the Personal Care Assistance (PCA) program and consumer support grants. CFSS is available statewide to eligible individuals to provide assistance and support to persons with disabilities, the elderly, and others with special health care needs living independently in the community.

CFSS is a federal-state funded service, with 51.16 percent paid with federal Medical Assistance (MA) funds and 48.84 percent paid with state general funds in federal fiscal year 2025. The statewide phase-in of CFSS began in October 2024.

How does CFSS differ from the PCA program?

CFSS is more accessible and flexible than the PCA program. CFSS is intended to prevent or delay future institutional admissions and support community living and to assist participants to recover and/or gain skills to increase and maintain community stability, use technology or home modifications to decrease the need for human assistance when appropriate, avoid the use of inappropriate services, and increasingly direct their own services. CFSS allows DHS to test new models of coordinating services for children receiving services across home, school, and community environments.

CFSS changes the structure of financial management entities under the PCA program to support participants hiring and directing their own staff. CFSS includes a budget model that allows participants to exercise more responsibility and control over the services and supports described and budgeted within the CFSS service-delivery plan. An agency-provider model is available for participants who are unable to direct their own services.

Who is eligible for CFSS?

CFSS is available to a person who meets one of the following criteria:

- is an MA enrollee, except for MA enrollees who are eligible for home care services coverage under Medicare
- is a participant in the alternative care program
- is an MA waiver recipient (elderly waiver, developmental disabilities waiver, brain injury waiver, community alternative care waiver, or community access for disability inclusion waiver)
- has medical services identified in a participant's individualized education program and is eligible for MA special education services

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria above, a person must also:

- require assistance and be determined dependent in one activity of daily living (ADL) or Level I behavior based on an assessment; and
- not be a family support grant recipient.

What services are provided?

Activities of daily living and health-related procedures and tasks:

- assistance with ADLs, including eating, toileting, grooming, dressing, bathing, mobility, positioning, and transferring
- assistance with instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), such as meal planning, preparation, and cooking; shopping for food, clothing, or other essential items; laundry; housecleaning; assistance with medications; managing finances; communicating needs and preferences during activities; arranging supports; and assistance with traveling around and participating in the community, including traveling to medical appointments
- assistance with health-related procedures and tasks that can be taught or assigned by a state-licensed health care or mental health professional and performed by a support worker
- assistance to acquire, maintain, or enhance the skills necessary for the participant to accomplish ADLs, IADLs, or health-related procedures and tasks

Services and supports:

- expenditures for items, services, supports, environmental modifications, or goods, including assistive technology
- back-up systems or mechanisms, such as the use of pagers or other electronic devices, to ensure continuity of the participant's services and supports
- services provided by a consultation services provider under contract with DHS and enrolled as a Minnesota health care program provider
- services provided by a financial management services provider
- worker training and development services

Observation and redirection for behavior or symptoms when there is a need for assistance.

Swimming lessons for a participant younger than 12 years of age whose disability puts the participant at a higher risk of drowning.

Who provides CFSS services?

CFSS services are provided by support workers who are employed by third-party agency providers or the participant. Support workers must enroll with the Department of Human Services, complete a background study, and meet all other requirements. Services may be provided by a support worker who is a parent, step-parent, or legal guardian of a participant who is under age 18, or who is the participant's spouse. Agency providers must be MA-enrolled health care program providers and meet all applicable provider standards and requirements, including compliance with background study requirements, reporting maltreatment of minors and vulnerable adults, meeting the financial requirements established by the commissioner for financial solvency, and verifying and maintaining records of all services and expenditures by the participant.



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