

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota

Cost Share Policy/Statement of Value Process for Title III Project Participants

Purpose:

The number of older adults needing help is growing and public resources used to pay for this help are diminishing. To help sustain services for a growing population and to comply with grant funders requirements (MN Board on Aging), families/individuals participating in A.C.E. of SW Minnesota's Title III Grant programs will be asked to share in the cost of the service they are receiving or a portion of the cost, based on ability to pay.

Sliding Fee Scale & Voluntary Contribution Chart and Basis of Service Fee:

Suggested cost sharing fees will be based on the care receiver's gross income as well as household size (and relationship) using the following service cost as the base fee:

Title III-E: Caregiver Respite \$20/hour

Caregiver Counseling \$100/year (Caregiver counseling services include assessment, development of personal plan & follow-up contacts.)

Caregiver Support Group: \$100/year

Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) Class series \$12.50/class = \$75.00/series

Title III-D: A Matter of Balance (MOB) Class series \$10.00/class = \$80.00/series

Living Well Class series (CDSMP/DSMP) \$10.00/class = \$60.00/series

Stay Active & Independent for Life (SAIL) Class series \$5.00/class = \$120/series

Tai Ji Quan: Moving for Better Balance (TJQMBB) Class series \$5.00/class = \$120/series

Coordinators will inform the client what the real unit cost is and explain that some (but not all) of that cost is subsidized by other funding sources. This will allow A.C.E. of SW Minnesota to educate clients about the real cost of the service.

Determining Income:

Cost sharing participation will be based solely on the gross income of the care receiver. Personal assets, savings or other property will not be considered when determining income levels. Income will be determined solely by confidential declaration of income by the care receiver or caregiver, on behalf of the care receiver, and with no requirement of verification.

In cases where the caregiver and the care receiver are married and at least one is 60+, both incomes will be used to determine the cost share amount. The two person household income column on the cost share sliding scale will be used to determine the cost share amount.

Low Income and Cost Sharing:

Cost Sharing will not be implemented for an individual whose income is at or below the federal poverty guideline. In such cases, the family/caregiver will be given the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution to the program.

Hardship Exceptions:

An individual may be waived from cost sharing participation for reasons of hardship - such as high medical or living expenses - or in the case of the care receiver's income dipping below the poverty guideline.

When to Inform the Participant of Cost Sharing/Voluntary Contribution Plan:

Participants will be informed of this policy at initial assessment time or as close to in-take as deemed appropriate by coordinators working with the client. Policies will be explained verbally, and scales will be provided in print.

No Denial of Service:

Clients who are unable or unwilling to pay specified fees based on the sliding fee scale or who do not wish to make a voluntary contribution to the program will not be denied service. This will be explained verbally and in print to participants at the same time other fee information is reviewed with the prospective client.

Opportunity to Voluntarily Contribute or Make Payment of Cost Sharing Fees:

Clients will receive, at a minimum, a quarterly mailed "Statement of Value" based on the service received. The mailing will also provide clients with the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution if they are exempt from cost sharing or are unwilling to participate in the cost share plan. All mailings will state that no one will be denied service based on inability or unwillingness to pay. There will be no carry forward balance due from one period to the next. Both cost share payments and voluntary contributions will be accounted for in a confidential manner.

Accounting for Cost Sharing Fees and Voluntary Contributions:

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota will maintain separate fund codes established through the general ledger for the funds provided under the grant and income generated by the project. The funds will not be co-mingled with funds received under any other agreement. Program income will be deposited based on general practices of the organization.

Use of Cost Sharing Fees and Voluntary Contributions:

All cost share fees and voluntary contributions will be used to expand program services.

Other Primary Sources of Payment:

When possible, other primary sources of payment (other than Title III E), including home and community-based Medicaid waiver programs and MN's Alternative Care Program, will be explored and maximized to pay for respite and caregiver counseling services via A.C.E. of SW Minnesota.