



Just the Facts:

Assisted Living

What is assisted living?

Assisted living combines a home-like setting with personal support services. Assisted living residences vary considerably, but most provide meals, housekeeping, laundry, transportation, and social activities. They also offer personal care, such as assistance with eating, bathing, grooming and personal hygiene. Some nursing care is also provided, including medication administration and dressing changes.

How many older adults reside in assisted living facilities?

Assisted living is the fastest growing type of senior housing. Between 16,000 and 18,000 older adults live in Ohio's 400 assisted living communities. The average age of the residents is 83. The typical resident usually needs assistance with three activities of daily living.

Do assisted living facilities receive specific licensing?

More than 33 states have an assisted living licensing category, but Ohio does not. The Ohio Department of Health does, however, license nursing facilities and residential care facilities. Many assisted living facilities hold residential care facility licenses.

How much does assisted living cost?

Costs vary depending on the size of living area an older adult chooses, area of the state, and the amount of care needed. Costs generally range from \$3,500 to \$4,000 per month.

How does assisted living fit into the long-term care continuum?

Assisted living facilities give older adults another option instead of nursing facility care or home and community-based services. Assisted living facilities offer residential care that is less expensive and less restrictive than nursing facility care.

Does Medicaid or other public funding pay for services in assisted living facilities?

Most assisted living in Ohio is paid for privately. Forty-one other states have Medicaid waiver programs that pay for services in assisted living facilities and some even have state funds for the housing costs associated with assisted living. Older adults who are receiving services from PASSPORT, Ohio Home Care or Choices, or are residents in nursing facilities, may enroll in the Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Program and receive services in a "Residential Care Facility."

How does Ohio use Medicaid to fund services in assisted living facilities?

The Ohio General Assembly has authorized the creation of a Medicaid-funded Assisted Living Waiver. The program began July 1, 2006, and is limited to 1,800 participants in certified Residential Care Facilities.