

Medicaid/TennCare Benefits

What are TennCare and CHOICES?

Tennessee's Medicaid program is called TennCare. A program under TennCare called CHOICES offers benefits for in-home services, approved adult day care centers, approved assisted living and memory care communities, and long-term care in nursing homes.

Who qualifies for CHOICES?

In order to qualify for CHOICES, Tennesseans have to meet strict financial and medical requirements. Factors include monthly income, total assets, mobility, ability to perform basic tasks without assistance (eating, bathing, etc.), and need for skilled services.

How can I meet the financial requirements?

Financial planning strategies are available for individuals with too many assets to qualify. These strategies take time to implement before benefits can be received, so plan early. Do not just give away assets; this may prevent you from qualifying.

How is medical qualification assessed?

Medical qualification must be supported by information on a medical chart. A social worker or health care professional experienced in handling CHOICES applications can help to determine eligibility and can assist in collecting the necessary documentation.

Do I have to give up my home?

Qualifying for CHOICES does not require giving up your family home at the time of application. With proper planning, estate recovery may be avoided.

What do I do if I believe I qualify for CHOICES?

Applying for CHOICES is more than filling out paperwork. Elder Law of East Tennessee provides support and resources to help you submit a successful application.

What if I have already been denied?

Many qualified individuals are denied benefits for various reasons. The good news is that there is an appeals process for addressing wrongful denials. If you have been denied, seek help from a professional who can guide you through the appeals process.



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