



# Can I get paid for caring for a frail or disabled relative or friend? (Brief Version)

Some Massachusetts programs for people with low income may pay certain family members or friends to provide needed care to frail seniors or people with disabilities.

## Programs at a Glance

	Program Type	Living Situation	Payment Source	Patient Eligibility	Caregiver Eligibility
<b>Adult Foster Care/Caregiver Homes</b>	Caregiver receives stipend	Together	MassHealth	MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth	Non-legally responsible relative* or unrelated
<b>Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Program</b>	Caregiver hourly wage	Independent	MassHealth	MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth	Non-legally responsible relative* or unrelated
<b>Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled, and Children (EAEDC)</b>	Cash Assistance	Together	Dept. of Transitional Assistance	Low income and assets	Very low income Any relative or unrelated

**Veterans please note:** you may be eligible for additional pension benefits or a program that can pay certain family members for providing care. Contact your **local VA Regional Benefit Office** (800-827-1000 in MA) for more information and to apply.

**\*Legally responsible relative** – spouses, parents of a minor child and legal guardians are **NOT** eligible to be paid for providing care under the Adult Foster Care or PCA programs. Relatives who are not legally responsible, and unrelated persons, may be eligible. Non-legally responsible relatives may include siblings, adult children caring for a parent, parents caring for their adult child and other relatives not listed.

## Program Descriptions

### **Adult Foster Care (AFC)/Caregiver Homes**

AFC is also called Adult Family Care and Caregiver Homes. Your client lives with you, a trained paid caregiver, and you provide meals, companionship, personal care assistance, and 24-hour supervision. You receive a stipend from MassHealth (Medicaid). A social worker and registered nurse team train you and provide ongoing support.

**To Apply:** Call the Massachusetts elder helpline 800-AGE-INFO (800-243-4636)

### **Personal Care Attendant (PCA) Program**

The PCA Program is a MassHealth (Medicaid) program that pays you, the PCA, an hourly wage for a pre-approved number of hours. **The consumer lives independently and hires, trains, schedules and manages you.** Those who need assistance for these tasks can name a family member or other responsible adult to be a **surrogate** (who cannot also serve as a PCA). **Approval typically takes at least a couple of months.**

**More information:** [mass.gov/2017/11/09/pca-consumer-handbook.pdf](https://mass.gov/2017/11/09/pca-consumer-handbook.pdf)

**Apply** through the local Personal Care Management Agency (PCM):  
[rewardingwork.org/Massachusetts/Contact-PCM-agencies/](http://rewardingwork.org/Massachusetts/Contact-PCM-agencies/).

### **Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children (EAEDC)**

EAEDC is a cash assistance program for certain people with very low income. **It provides a very modest benefit. Unlike the PCA program and Adult Foster Care, however, legally responsible relatives may qualify. You can qualify as a caretaker for a disabled person if the disabled person needs constant care and is at risk of being institutionalized.** There are special financial eligibility rules for caretakers. The **maximum EAEDC monthly** benefit for a family of 2 is \$474.20. EAEDC no longer has asset limits

**More information:** [mass.gov/service-details/check-eaedc-eligibility-and-how-to-apply](https://mass.gov/service-details/check-eaedc-eligibility-and-how-to-apply)

**Apply online through DTA connect** [dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/signup](https://dtaconnect.eohhs.mass.gov/signup) or at your local Department of Transitional Assistance office: [mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-transitional-assistance/locations?\\_page=1](https://mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-transitional-assistance/locations?_page=1)