



The Family Caregiver Support Program FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

1. What is the Family Caregiver Support Program? The Program is designed to empower caregivers and elders by providing them with information, education, support, and services that enhance their quality of life and improve their ability to care for a family member, a loved one, or themselves.

2. Whom does the Program serve? Anyone caring for an adult age 60 or older, anyone caring for someone suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and anyone age 60 or older and caring for a child 18 years old or younger, especially grandparents. It also serves adults age 60 or older living alone and desiring a care plan for themselves, or adults age 60 and older caring for an adult child with disabilities.

3. What support is provided? Information about community resources and local programs; an assessment of caregiving needs and a written care plan to address them; referrals to community-based service providers; respite services; community grants designed to be "seed monies" to enable new support programs to initiate service; and small caregiver scholarships to provide needed services or equipment.

4. What are the benefits of the Family Caregiver Support Program? The assessment mentioned in number 3 identifies how a caregiver thinks and feels about their situation. In addition, it identifies unmet needs, changes in the caregiving role, options for addressing unmet needs and changes, support to the caregiver in connecting to the options identified as helpful, and referrals to support services the caregiver desires. The caregiver also receives a written care plan to refer to in the future.

5. Once a client is referred to the program, how does the process proceed? A referred client is contacted within 5 to 7 days. Either the Program Coordinator or the Outreach Specialist will call the client and arrange for a time to complete a phone or in-home assessment of caregiving needs. The Program's service is completed within 180 days. The goal is to empower the caregiver to move forward in their role. If circumstances change, caregivers are always free to re-contact the Program.

6. What does the Program cost? The services of the Family Support Coordinator and the Outreach Specialist are free. However, referral to other services may involve some cost to the caregiver or their family.