What you’ll learn today

What is ALTCS?
What determines eligibility?
  Medical
  Financial
  Potential complications
What’s next?
  ALTCS intake process
  Services and case management
Who Pays for LTC?

People pay in a variety of ways

Long-term services and supports (LTSS) spending, by payer, 2018.

- Medicaid, 52%
- Other Public and Private, 25%
- Out-of-Pocket, 16%
- Private Insurance, 11%

Medicaid LTSS Spending = $196.9 billion

Total National LTSS Spending = $379 billion

NOTE: Total LTSS expenditures include spending on residential care facilities, nursing homes, home health services, and home and community-based waiver services. Expenditures also include spending on ambulance providers and some post-acute care. This chart does not include Medicare spending on post-acute care ($133.3 billion in 2018). All home and community-based waiver services are attributed to Medicaid.

A.L.T.C.S.

- Arizona Long-Term Care System

- A part of AHCCCS (Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System)

- Arizona’s version of Medicaid
A.L.T.C.S. provides funding for:

- Nursing Home Care
- Assisted Living
  - Adult Foster Care (4 or less)
  - Adult Care Homes (10 or less)
  - Assisted Living Centers
- Home and Community Services
- *Must meet Medical Criteria*
To start your application call:

Eligibility: AHCCCS

(520) 205-8600 or 1(800) 824-2656
Eligibility Requirements (Determined by AHCCCS)

• **General** – Initial application

• **Financial**
  • **Income** – W-2s, 1099s, etc.
  • **Resources/Assets** – Financial statements

• **Medical** – Pre-Admission Screening
General Eligibility (need all)

• Must be a U.S. citizen or have legally been in the United States for more than five years

• Must have a Social Security Number

• Must be a current resident of Arizona; one day is sufficient to establish Arizona residency
Financial Eligibility

Income vs. Assets

- There are some people who rent, only own one vehicle are below the income cap and have no assets/resources. For those people the financial assessment process will be fairly simple.
- In other cases someone may have two vehicles, have some savings or have a higher income. These factors will require additional review.
- First, we will give you the basic eligibility information and then we’ll discuss the more complex scenarios.
Income Eligibility

• **Gross Income:** All income received may not exceed $2,349 per month for the applicant

• If applicant’s income is over limit, the state looks at a married couple’s joint income which may not exceed $4,698 per month

• One cent over and you are ineligible
If you are over income you can try to:

• Reduce income
  • **BUT:** You cannot refuse an entitlement

• Set up an Income Trust
Income Trust (Miller Trust)

• If income > $2,349 and less then the average cost of care ($7,534), you may use a special *income only trust*

• A Miller Trust is a special type of bank account

• All or part of the applicant’s income goes into the trust
  • Share of cost is paid from the trust less allowable expenses
  • Trust is payable on death to AHCCCS
Resource Eligibility

• All assets are counted (including trusts) except: PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS (NOT IN TRUST)
  • Value of home (up to $552,000)
  • One car (for medical transportation)
  • Burial plots
  • Burial funds (limited to $1,500)
  • Life insurance (if less than $1,500)
  • Household goods, including wedding ring, pets, and tools used for income, etc.
Resource Limit

• The eligible individual may keep up to $2,000 in countable assets and still be eligible for ALTCS
  • $3,000 for a couple if both applying for ALTCS services

• If you have accumulated one cent more, you may find yourself ineligible for that month
For a Couple

- The **Community Spouse** is protected by Federal “Spousal Impoverishment” guidelines
  - Assets less than $25,728 CS keeps the total
  - Assets greater than $25,728 are subject to resource assessment
  - The Community Spouse may keep half of the countable assets at the time of initial medical eligibility up to the Maximum Community Spouse Resource Deduction $128,640

(See AHCCCS info sheet “ALTCS Policies on Community Spouse”)

## Three Couples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Couple</th>
<th>2nd Couple</th>
<th>3rd Couple</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joint Assets</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asset Limit/Com Sp Share</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$22,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Limit Spouse on ALTCS</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligibility Target</td>
<td>$102,000</td>
<td>$52,000</td>
<td>NOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spend down</td>
<td>$98,000</td>
<td>$48,000</td>
<td>0</td>
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Resource Assessment

• Should be requested at time of initial medical eligibility even if you know you are not financially eligible

• This will give you a target to aim for and time to plan
Resources: Spend Down to Eligibility

- Care of applicant
- On anything for applicant or spouse
- Pay off debts (after Resource Assessment)
  - Pay off mortgage
  - Buy new car
  - Fix house
- BUT: Do not give away within 5 years of being eligible for services
The Deficit Reduction Act of 2006 Warns That:

• If you give away or transfer property for less than market value within 60 months of applying, you will be ineligible for a period of time

• Ineligibility = Total $’s given away/$7,534 (average cost of care)
  • i.e. $30,000 given away in last 5 years
  • $30,000/$7,534 = 4 mos. of ineligibility from date individual would otherwise be eligible

• You may appeal based upon hardship
VA Aid and Attendance

• This is a benefit for Wartime Veterans or Surviving Spouses who are financially and medically eligible and need financial assistance paying for their care.
  • ALTCS does **NOT** count the benefit amount as income when determining eligibility
  • ALTCS **DOES** count this amount when determining Share of Cost for nursing home placement only. They do **NOT** count it when the person is paying room and board to live in an alternative community setting such as assisted living.

Call the Arizona Department of Veteran’s Services for more information: (520) 207-4960
Medical Eligibility

• **P.A.S.** (Pre-Admission Screening) Point Based Method of Eligibility Determination

• Applicant must require a level of care provided at an intermediate level nursing facility even for in-home services
Applicants are assessed by a social worker or nurse who:

- Conducts face-to-face interviews
- Reviews medical records
- Assesses activities of daily living (toileting, bathing, grooming, eating, mobility, transfer) and sensory impairment, orientation, and behaviors
A family member can (and should) provide input to A.L.T.C.S.

- The applicant may try to show the assessor how well they are doing
- What is needed for eligibility is to show how incapacitated they really are
- Applicants will not tell a stranger about incontinence or dementia
  - **Incontinence** scores high on the PAS
  - **Dementia** also scores high
### Sample PAS Questions: Bathing

**Question:** How well can the applicant bathe or shower? The ability to transfer to shower or bath, and to bathe or take sponge baths for the purpose of maintaining adequate hygiene and skin integrity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 pts.</td>
<td><strong>INDEPENDENT</strong> – Applicant is independent in completing activity safely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pts.</td>
<td><strong>SUPERVISION/LIMITED OR CONDITIONAL HANDS-ON</strong> – Applicant requires set-up help or reminding -can bathe safely without continuous assistance or supervision OR requires limited/occasional hands-on assistance (e.g. washing back or paralyzed limb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pts.</td>
<td><strong>HANDS-ON</strong> – Customer may need assistance transferring and may not be able to get into and out of the tub alone OR requires stand-by assistance throughout bathing activities in order to maintain safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 pts.</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL DEPENDENCE</strong> – Customer is dependent on others to provide a complete bath</td>
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Now you’re eligible! What’s next?

• You’ll be asked to choose a plan
  • Services/Case Management:
    • Banner – University Family Care: 1(833) 318-4146
    • Mercy Care: 1(800) 624-3879

• You’ll be assigned a case manager and will schedule a home visit

• You’ll work with the case manager to develop a plan of care
What is a Share of Cost?

- Share of Cost is a monthly fee that people living in residential placement pay to cover room and board.
- Residential placement could be either assisted living or a nursing home

The amount each person pays:
- Equals income, less:
  - $117 Personal Needs Allowance
  - $144 Medical Insurance (Part B)
### Share of Cost of Individual to the Facility

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare Part B</td>
<td>($144)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share of Cost</td>
<td>$1,239</td>
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</table>
Share of Cost when ALTCS member’s spouse lives in their own home

• Community spouse keeps all income in their own name

• If less than $2,155 monthly (the monthly minimum spousal need allowance) then
  • Community spouse may also keep a portion of their spouse’s income to bring it up to the minimum ($2,155)
Share of Cost for a person with a community spouse—an example:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Spouse on ALTCS</th>
<th>Community Spouse</th>
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<td>Medicare Part B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Com SP Share</td>
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<td>Share of Cost</td>
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<tr>
<td>Com SP Net</td>
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<td>$2,155</td>
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What happens to your house upon your death?

• Estate recovery may or may not apply to you

• The State may claim reimbursement for services provided for their value

• Recovery may not be limited to the Probate Estate of the recipient of services

• Property held in joint tenancy, tenancy in common, beneficiary deed and life estates may be subject to recovery
Estate Recovery
Undue Hardship Waiver

AHCCCS may waive the claim against the estate when the heir meets the undue hardship criteria:

• Currently resides in the residence;
• Resided there at the time of the ALTCS member’s death;
• Has made the residence their primary residence for 12 months prior to member’s death; and
• Owns no other residence
For Further Information about Estate Recovery:

• Please see the State of Arizona
• Medicaid Assistance Estate Recovery Program brochure and other information sheets are available on the web at www.azahcccs.gov/Members/Publications/
PCOA offers Understanding Medicare classes every Tuesday at 1:30 pm Sept 8 through Dec 3.
Thank You

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