

## Choices

Tennessee's CHOICES program includes nursing facility services and home and community-based services (HCBS) for adults 21 years of age and older with a physical disability and seniors (age 65 and older).

TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports (or CHOICES for short) is for adults (age 21 and older) with a physical disability and seniors (age 65 and older). CHOICES offers services to help a person live in their own home or in the community. These services are called Home and Community Based Services or HCBS. These services can be provided in the home, on the job, or in the community to assist with daily living activities and allow people to work and be actively involved in their local community. CHOICES also provides care in a nursing home if this is needed.

To qualify for and remain in CHOICES Groups 1 and 2, you must:

- Need the level of care provided in a nursing home; AND
- Qualify for Medicaid long-term services and supports

To qualify for Medicaid long-term services and supports: (1) Your income can't be more than \$2,250 per month (If it is, you may be able to set up a Qualifying Income Trust); (2) The total value of things you own can't be more than \$2,000 (The home where you live doesn't count); AND (3) You can't have given away or sold anything for less than what it's worth in the last five (5) years.

To qualify for and remain in CHOICES Group 3, you must:

- Be "at risk" of needing the level of care provided in a nursing home unless you receive home care; AND
- Be getting SSI (Supplemental Security Income) payments from the Social Security Administration

There are three CHOICES groups:

**CHOICES Group 1** is for people of all ages who receive **nursing home care**.

**CHOICES Group 2** is for adults (age 21 and older) with a physical disability and seniors (age 65 and older) who qualify to receive **nursing home care**, but choose to receive home care services instead.

**CHOICES Group 3** is for adults (age 21 and older) with a disability and seniors (age 65 and older) who **don't** qualify for nursing home care, but need a more moderate package of home care services to delay or prevent the need for nursing home care.

To enroll in CHOICES and receive home care services:

(1) Your TennCare health plan (or Managed Care Organization) must be able to meet your needs safely at home; AND

(2) If you qualify for nursing home care, the cost of your home care can't be more than the cost of nursing home care. The cost of your home care includes any home health or private duty nursing care that you need. If you **don't** qualify for nursing home care, but are "at risk" of needing nursing home level of care, the cost of your CHOICES home care can't be more than \$15,000 per year. That doesn't include the cost of any minor home modifications you may need.