

Community HealthChoices (CHC) is a new initiative that will make it possible for older Pennsylvanians and Pennsylvanians living with disabilities to remain in their communities while they are receiving services. Pennsylvania is working with consumers, advocates, and providers to create a sustainable, person-driven, long-term support system in which people have choice, control, and access to a full array of quality services that provide independence, health, and quality of life.

Under CHC, managed care organizations (MCOs) coordinate physical health care and long-term services and supports (LTSS) for older people, people with physical disabilities, and people who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Who is eligible for CHC?

Individuals are eligible for CHC if they are 21 years old or over and:

- are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid; OR
- qualify for Medicaid LTSS because they need the level of medical care provided by a nursing facility.

Individuals are not eligible for CHC if they:

- are an Act 150 program participant;
- are a person with an intellectual or developmental disability who is eligible for services through the Department of Human Services' Office of Developmental Programs; OR
- are a resident in a state-operated nursing facility, including the state veterans' homes.

If an individual chooses and is eligible for the Living Independence for Elders (LIFE) program, we will not enroll them in CHC unless they specifically ask to be moved to CHC.

How does CHC work?

Pennsylvania will use MCOs to coordinate physical health and LTSS. Each CHC participant may choose his or her MCO. Each regional zone will have two to five MCOs to choose from.

The MCOs are accountable for the health and well-being of participants through the delivery of services and supports that meet quality and other standards set in the contracts.

What services does CHC cover?

CHC covers the same physical health benefits that part of the Medicaid Adult Benefit Package. If you are eligible for LTSS, you can also get all services now available in waivers offered by the Office of Long-Term Living. With one exception, CHC will replace these waiver programs.

The Omnibus Reconciliation Act (OBRA) waiver will stay in effect for individuals ages 18-20 who qualify for Medicaid LTSS and for individuals that have a severe developmental physical disability and need an Intermediate Care Facility/Other Related Conditions (ICF/ORC) level of medical care.

Behavioral health is not a part of CHC, but will be closely coordinated with behavioral health HealthChoices MCOs.

When will CHC be in my area?

CHC will begin in three phases over the next three years, using the five geographic [HealthChoices zones](#).

- Phase One – January 2018 in the Southwest zone;
- Phase Two – July 2018 in the Southeast zone; and
- Phase Three – January 2019 in the Northwest, Lehigh/Capital, and Northeast zones.

At least 90 days before CHC becomes available in other zones, we will notify individuals in those zones so they will be ready for the change.