

Consumer Support Grant program

The Consumer Support Grant (CSG) program replaces the Medicaid home care services of home health aide (HHA), personal care assistance (PCA) and home care nursing (HCN) with a state-funded grant. Participants work with their county or tribal agency to develop a person-centered, county-approved plan to manage and pay for a range of supports so they may live in their home.

The program gives consumers greater flexibility and freedom of choice in how they get their supports and services as well as who provides them. They may hire parents, spouses, family members, trusted neighbors or friends as well as employees of traditional home care provider agencies.

Who is eligible for a CSG?

To be eligible for a CSG, a person must meet all of these criteria:

- Be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA).
- Be assessed for HHA, PCA or HCN services.
- Be able to direct and purchase their own care and supports or have a family member, legal representative or other authorized representative direct and purchase their care and supports on their behalf.
- Have a functional limitation that requires ongoing supports to live in the community.
- Live in a home setting.
- Not receive services through:
 - MA managed care (except Special Needs BasicCare)
 - A home and community-based waiver
 - Family Support Grant
 - Alternative Care
 - MA home care services (HHA, HCN or PCA).

How do people receive the grant?

The county or tribal agency will assess the person's needs and help develop their CSG service plan. The plan:

- Identifies the supports the person needs
- Outlines how CSG will pay for those supports
- Describes the method for documenting the person's expenses.

CSG participants must:

- Arrange for purchasing their goods and services.
- Document all CSG expenditures.
- Hire a fiscal support entity to help with employer obligations, billing and payment functions.

The county or tribal agency approves the plan and ensures that all costs are within the person's CSG budget.

How much can a person receive?

The grant amount is based on the person's home care assessment and rating, available program funding and state budget caps. Individuals can obtain an estimate of their grant from their county or tribal CSG coordinator. In state fiscal year 2018, an average of 2,629 participants per month received an average monthly grant of \$938.

What can CSG pay for?

A CSG participant may purchase a variety of supports that are included in their person-centered, county-approved plan. All goods and services must:

- Relate to the person's functional limitations.
- Help them live in their own home.
- Be over and above the cost of supporting a person without a disability.

County or tribal agencies may customize the CSG program within state guidelines to fit the needs of their residents. People should contact their local agency for more information.

Examples of allowable expense categories may include:

- Companionship services
- Chore services
- Family counseling
- Home or vehicle modifications
- Nutrition services, home-delivered meals
- Respite care
- Home health aide or personal care-like services
- Home care nursing services
- Specialized equipment
- Transportation.

People must use all other available sources of payment before using the CSG.

How can people apply for the grant?

People may apply at their local county or tribal agency. Currently not all counties offer CSG. However, people may contact them with questions about the CSG. A list of counties and regional offices is on the DHS website at: <https://mn.gov/dhs/general-public/about-dhs/contact-us/counties-and-regional-offices/>. People may also call the Disability Hub MN at 866-333-2466 or online at disabilityhubmn.org.



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