



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

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Dear Long Term Services and Supports Participant,

We would like to introduce you to Community First Choice (CFC), a new option Alaska has added to help people who would otherwise be living in an institution (like a nursing home) to live in the community. CFC joins Alaska's other Medicaid-funded Long Term Services and Supports programs, including the home and community-based waivers and the Personal Care Services (PCS) program.

We are promoting this new program, recently approved for Alaska by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, because it receives more federal funding than the other programs. With Community First Choice, we can serve more Alaskans.

You qualify for CFC because our records show you currently receive both home and community based waiver services and personal care services (PCS). With CFC, you may receive more hours to support you in completing your activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, and shopping. CFC is like "enhanced PCS," but it comes from a different funding source.

CFC includes the following:

- ❖ Community First Choice Personal Care Service (CFC-PCS) - Your current personal care assistant (PCA) will continue to provide you with personal care services, now called "CFC-PCS" and your hours will not be reduced as a result of CFC implementation.
- ❖ Supervision and reminders - You may receive additional CFC-PCS hours if you need someone to watch over you (providing supervision or reminders), if you have cognitive impairment or behavior issues.
- ❖ Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) - You may be eligible to receive a personal emergency response system or medical alert system that calls for help at the push of a button in the event of an emergency. If you already have one of these systems that is paid for by a waiver, you will need to be enrolled in CFC to continue to receive this service.
- ❖ Skills training - Your PCA will be trained to assist you in learning how to do things like bathe or do housework more independently.
- ❖ Worker supervision - You can receive training to help you manage your PCA better.

The following questions and answers explain how CFC will work:

How do I enroll in Community First Choice?

Because you are already enrolled in a waiver and you receive PCS, or you have a PERS that is paid for by a waiver, you will automatically be enrolled in CFC. Auto-enrollment means you do not have to do anything, and your services won't change as a result of automatic enrollment. The next time your Plan of Care is renewed, your Care Coordinator will tell you if you are eligible for the additional hours offered with CFC.

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If you want to see if you are eligible to receive the additional hours offered under CFC before your annual Plan of Care renewal, you can request that your Care Coordinator review your Plan of Care sooner. You may need a new assessment to determine whether you qualify for the additional hours.

Can I choose not to be automatically enrolled in the CFC program?

If you do not want to be automatically enrolled in CFC, you should contact your Care Coordinator. You (with help from your Care Coordinator) have 30 calendar days, from the date of this letter, to notify the State, in writing, that you are choosing to opt out of the CFC program. Your Care Coordinator will submit this documentation to SDS through the Harmony system.

Will I lose my services if I opt out of the CFC program?

If you decide to opt out of CFC, you can still receive Personal Care Services. However, the State will only be able to pay for PERS if you enroll in CFC, because PERS is no longer available as a waiver service.

When will the CFC program start?

The CFC program is targeted to begin July 1, 2018.

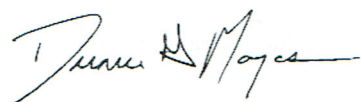
Will I still have a care coordinator?

Yes. Your Care Coordinator will work with you to develop your annual plan of care, which will now be called a support plan. Your support plan will include both CFC and waiver services.

Who do I call if I have questions, or if I just want to keep all my services the way they are now?

Contact your Care Coordinator with any questions or concerns, or visit our new CFC webpage on the Division of Senior & Disabilities Services website: sds.dhss.alaska.gov.

Sincerely,



Duane Mayes, Director
Division of Senior and Disabilities Services