
ALTCS Eligibility

Disability Rights Arizona





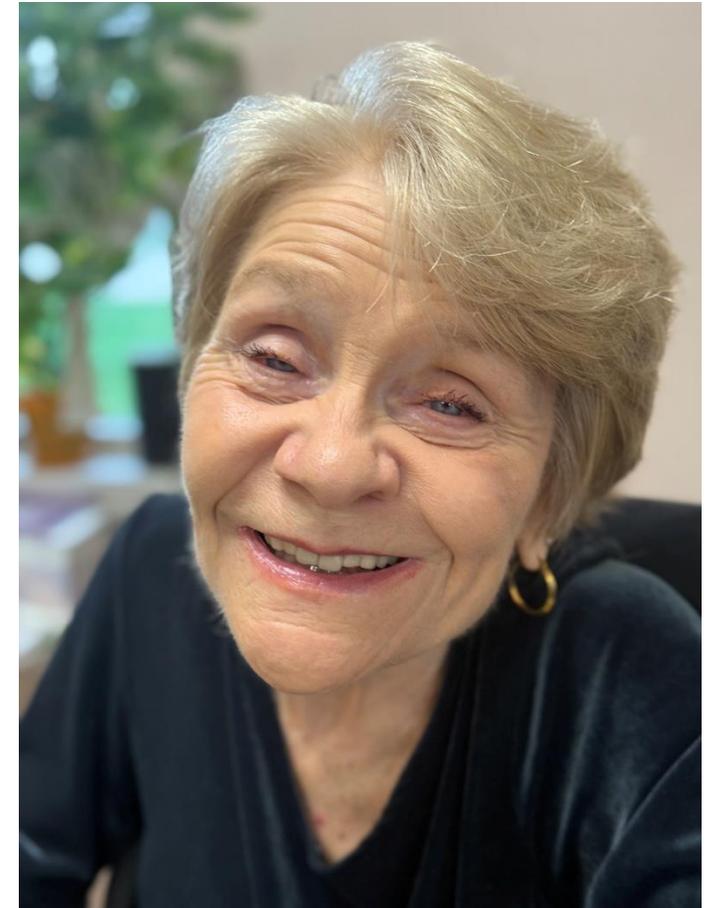
About DRAZ

- Disability Rights Arizona (DRAZ) is the protection and advocacy agency for Arizonans with disabilities. DRAZ is a non-profit public interest law firm, dedicated to protecting the rights of individuals with a wide range of physical, mental, psychiatric, sensory, and cognitive disabilities
- Focus Areas
 - Client Assistance Program (CAP)
 - Education
 - Healthcare
 - Housing
 - Employment
 - Public Accommodations
 - State and local government
 - Investigations and Monitoring

Donna Powers

Donna Powers is a Staff Advocate and Investigator with Disability Rights Arizona, where she has worked for the past 14 years. She graduated from Arizona State University Magna Cum Laude, with a degree in Interpersonal Communication and has certificates from the Generation Next Nonprofit Leadership Academy and the Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute. Donna has extensive work experience in the disability community, including the Arizona Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), LIFE, Inc., Easter Seals Arizona and various positions in the Phoenix Metro public transportation system. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the Arizona Technology Access Program and has volunteered with Diverse Ability Inc. and the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum.

In 2022, Donna was awarded the prestigious Hon. John R. Sticht Disability Achievement Award by the State Bar of Arizona, for her decades-long contributions to advancing disability rights through her work and



Sey In

- Sey In - Sey is the interim managing attorney for healthcare at Disability Rights Arizona (DRAZ). Sey has worked at DRAZ since 2018 on various issues impacting Arizonans with disabilities, including supported decision-making, access to auxiliary aids and services for clients with hearing disabilities, fair housing matters, employment matters, and voting rights. He received his undergrad degrees from Arizona State University and law degree from Hofstra University where he was the recipient of the Honorable David A Patterson Award for Public Service and received a certificate in clinical bioethics.



Agenda

1. What is ALTCS?
2. ALTCS services
3. ALTCS eligibility factors
4. The PAS assessment
5. How to apply for ALTCS
6. Special Considerations
7. What to do if you are denied eligibility



What is ALTCS??

The Arizona Long-Term Care System (ALTCS) is health insurance (Medicaid) for Arizonans with disabilities who may need a higher (nursing) level of care and who meet financial and medical eligibility. Services can be provided in a facility or through home and community-based services (HCBS)

ALTCS provides services for:

- covered Arizonans with developmental disabilities (DD), and
- covered Arizonans who are elderly or physically disabled (EPD)



Nursing level?

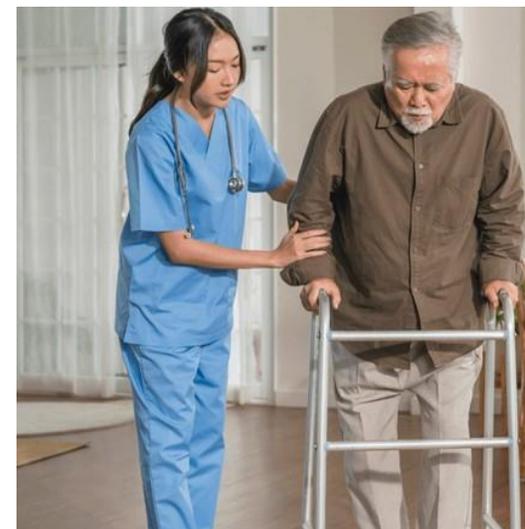
"Nursing Home Level of Care" is about the skill level needed to care for you, NOT where you live.

- You need skilled or semiskilled care to complete your activities of daily living
- You are not able to do most of your care yourself
- You live in your own home or in a facility



ALTCS Services

- Institutional care in a nursing facility
- Home and community-based services (HCBS)
- Medical services (doctors, lab work, reduced Rx costs)
- Behavioral health services
- Preventative and well care for children
- Hospice services



ALTCS Services Examples

- Day programs for individuals with developmental disabilities
- Attendant care services (homemaking, personal care)
- Home health services (nursing services, home health aides)
- Respite services, providing relief for family members caring for individuals
- Behavioral health services
- Therapies (physical, occupational)



Who is Eligible?

- You are a U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant
- You have a Social Security number or have applied for one
- You are in Arizona resident
- You live in your own home or an AHCCCS-approved facility
- You need a nursing home level of care (does not need to be provided in a facility setting)
- **You meet financial and medical eligibility**

Financial Eligibility

- To be eligible for ALTCS, a single applicant must show that they have a gross monthly income below \$2,982 and countable resources of \$2,000
- What are countable resources?
 - Checking, savings, and credit union accounts
 - Real property, that you do not live in
 - The cash value in some life insurance policies
 - Cash, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposits
 - Non-exempt vehicles
- What resources are not counted? Your home that you live in (unless it is held in a trust), one vehicle, burial plots, \$1,500 designated for burial, ABLE accounts

Medical Eligibility - The PAS Assessment

- PAS stands for Pre Admission Screening
- The PAS assessor is a registered nurse or a social worker
- The PAS assessment is generally done virtually; however, you may request an accommodation to have an in-person PAS
- The PAS will look at both an applicant's medical conditions and functioning in different activities of daily living (mobility, dressing, bathing, eating, etc).



Getting Ready for the PAS Assessment

- Disclosing health records – you can sign an authorization permitting AHCCCS to request your health records
- Gather a list of your medical conditions and medications you take. Take some time to consider the difficulties you experience every day
- Request diagnosis specific records
- Gather other documentation (physician progress notes, most recent physical, discharge hospital summaries (if applicable), school records)
- Ask a trusted family member or friend to help you with the process
- During the assessment, take your time when answering questions

The PAS Assessment for EPD



- Mobility
- Transferring
- Bathing
- Dressing
- Grooming
- Eating
- Toileting
- Contenance
- Hearing
- Expressive communication
- Vision
- Orientation (time and space)
- Emotional or Cognitive Behavioral
- Medical: paralysis, Alzheimer's or Dementia, Oxygen

The PAS Assessment for DD

- Will depend on the individual's age
 - Ages 12+
 - Age group 6-11
 - Age 0-5
 - 6-9 months
 - 9-11 months
 - 12-17 months
 - 18-23 months
 - 24-29 months
 - 30-35 months
 - 36-47 months
 - 48-49 months
 - 60+ months
- Independent living skills
- Communicative skills
- Behavior section
- Medical assessment (cerebral palsy, epilepsy, moderate, severe, or profound intellectual disability)

Financial Considerations

- Special considerations – Miller Trusts
- Applicants who are over the financial limit may still be eligible for ALTCS if they set up a special treatment trust, including a Miller Trust
- Some requirements
 - The ALTCS applicant is the named primary beneficiary
 - AHCCCS must be named as a remainder beneficiary
 - Only the applicant's income can be used for the trust
- Contact an attorney who specializes in estate planning for more guidance and information

Financial Considerations

- Special considerations – Estate Recovery
- Through the estate recovery process, upon the member's death AHCCCS may seek to recover payments AHCCCS provided for ALTCS services
- This process applies to individuals who are/turn 55+
- AHCCCS may impose a lien to secure the real property to recovery for the payments AHCCCS made
- Contact an attorney who specializes in estate planning for more guidance and information

A Checklist Before You Begin

- Do you meet both the AHCCCS financial and medical eligibility criteria?
- Do you need to request any documentation from your providers?
- Do you need services that can be provided by ALTCS?
- Think about the PAS
 - Before the PAS, write down the steps in your daily routine and how long it actually takes you to accomplish each step.
 - For ALTCS DD applications, think about the applicant's behavior within the past year
 - Do you need to ask someone to be with you during the PAS?
- Write down any questions you need to ask before you start and contact AHCCCS.
- Review your financial documents and consult with an estate planning attorney to consider your options (like a possible Miller Trust)

How to Apply

- You can complete an application on the [ALTCS portal](#), by calling (888) 621-6880, or completing the [ALTCS application](#) and emailing it to altcsregistration@azahcccs.gov
- You can have a health representative act on your behalf during the process
- You will need to provide documents to prove financial and medical eligibility
- Medical documentation can include disability award letters from SSA, medical records, a doctor's letter of medical necessity, school records (if applicable)

ALTCS Office Locations

- **Chinle ALTCS Office**

Tseyi Shopping Center, Hwy. 191
Chinle, Arizona 86503
Office site only, no mail delivery.

- **Flagstaff ALTCS Office**

1701 N Fourth St
Flagstaff, Arizona 86004

- **Kingman ALTCS Office**

2400 Airway Avenue
Kingman, Arizona 86409

- **Phoenix ALTCS Office**

150 N. 18th Ave., MD 3900
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

- **Tucson ALTCS Office**

7202 East Rosewood Street, Suite 125
Tucson, Arizona 85710

- **Yuma ALTCS Office**

1800 East Palo Verde Street
Yuma, Arizona 85364

What to Do If You Are Denied

- If you are denied ALTCS eligibility, you may appeal the denial.
- ALTCS must provide you with a denial letter. The denial letter should provide you with the reason why ALTCS denied eligibility and must have information on how to appeal the decision
- Review the reasons for the denial. If you have additional helpful documentation that you did not provide during the application process, provide those documents during the appeal process to help establish eligibility, or during re-application if you decide to reapply.

What to Do If You Are Denied

- If you are denied based on medical ineligibility, consider whether you may need to request new or additional documentation from a healthcare provider
- If you are denied based on financial ineligibility, consider consulting with a knowledgeable attorney to evaluate and adjust your financial situation
- You may also re-apply once you've addressed any issues that led to the denial
- If you are still denied after appealing, you have the option of requesting a State Fair Hearing

Case Examples – EPD

- John is an individual living with osteoporosis, hearing loss, diabetes, and was recently diagnosed with the beginning stages of Alzheimer's. Because of his disabilities, he is unable to move about his home safely, often forgets to take his medication, and is unable to manage some activities of daily living (managing hygiene, cooking). You're helping John figure out what is best for him. Where should you start?

Case Examples – DD

- Jane is a six-year-old child with autism. Jane experiences outbursts and has eloped several times within the past year. Her pediatrician suggested to her parents, that they should apply for ALTCS, so Jane can get access to HCBS services, like speech and occupational therapy. Jane is in school and has an IEP, but her parents are concerned that the IEP is not enough to show she meets eligibility. Where should her parents start?

Resources

- Arizona Administrative Code
https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-28.pdf
- ALTCS Office Locations
<https://www.azahcccs.gov/members/ALTCSlocations.html>
- AHCCCS guidance on estate recovery
https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/Downloads/Publications/DE-810_english.pdf
- Request a reasonable accommodation for PAS
<https://disabilityrightsaz.org/resource/reasonable-accommodations-for-pas-assessments/>

Resources Continued

- AHCCCS guidance on Special Treatment Trusts
https://www.azahcccs.gov/Members/Downloads/Publications/DE-819_english.pdf
- Current ALTCS Member Handbook
<https://des.az.gov/sites/default/files/dl/DDD-0465A.pdf>
- PAS Assessment DD
https://epm.azahcccs.gov/EligibilityPolicyManual/Policy/Chapter_100_0_Pre-admission_Screening/PAS_Tool_Template_DD_12_plus.pdf
- PAS Assessment EPD
https://epm.azahcccs.gov/EligibilityPolicyManual/Policy/Chapter_100_0_Pre-admission_Screening/PAS_Tool_Template_EPD.pdf

Questions

- To apply for assistance, you can
 - call 602-274-6287 or 1-800-927-2260 (toll free), or
 - visit us online at <https://disabilityrightsaz.org/get-help/apply-for-assistance/>