



Can You Get Paid to Care For Your Aging Parents?

Step 1: Investigate What Your State Has Available.

Google "getting paid to care for aging parent in [enter your state]"
Look for your state's department on aging. Typically denoted with ".gov" in the link address.
Click on relevant links that pop up and learn!

Tips:

Not all states have a program that makes this possible.
For the states that do, most require your loved one to already be on Medicaid.
Your mission here is to broadly LEARN what might be possible.



Step 2: Engage with Your Local Agency.

Look
Local



Go to <https://eldercare.acl.gov>

Enter your zip code.

It will tell you the name and contact info for your Area Agency on Aging.
Contact them and ask what they know and what's available to you locally.

Tips:

They are paid to know this information and guide you through the process if there is a program available.

Step 3: Does Your Loved One Have Long-term Care Insurance?

Most aged individuals today don't have LTC insurance.
If they do, take a look at it! Many have a clause for paying the person caring for the policy-holder at home.

Tips:

Talk to the broker. Either the individual that sold this to your loved one or who is now selling the policy to others.



Step 4: Is Your Loved One a Veteran or Surviving Spouse?

If so, there are VA benefits to support long-term care and the family members caring for the veteran.

Go to these links to learn more:

<https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/>

<https://www.va.gov/family-member-benefits/comprehensive-assistance-for-family-caregivers/>



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Step 5: None of the Above.

You may be left with looking inside the family for help.
 You can create a Family Care Agreement, which documents the care that's needed, how you're providing it, and what you'll get paid to do so.
 You'll utilize your loved one's funds for this.
 A template is provided in this packet.
 Need help? Check out this resource:
<https://www.eldercaresolutionsinc.com/post/financial-advantages-of-family-care-agreement>



Tips:
 Get past any guilt this brings up. Care is A LOT of work. Your efforts and time are valuable.
 Paying you instead of a professional could save your loved one tons of money, allowing their assets to stretch longer.
 If you get paid from their funds, you NEED TO DOCUMENT it so not to create issues in future Medicaid eligibility.

Research Notes

What did you learn when you look at what's available with your state?

Call Log and Notes

What did you learn when you talked with your Area Agency on Aging?

Name of person you talked to:
 Their direct contact email:
 Their direct phone number:

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Family Care Agreement Template

Section I: Services to be Provided and Location

List all tasks and duties that are expected of the caregiver (e.g., light house cleaning, laundry, meal preparation, grocery shopping, providing transportation to medical appointments and social activities) and indicate the location in which services will be provided, such as the senior's or family member's home.

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Section II: Frequency of Services

Document how often (how many days a week) and for how long (how many hours at a time) services are to be provided. The terms can be left somewhat flexible since care needs tend to change over time. For example, the contract might state, "a minimum of 20 hours per week" or "a maximum of 40 hours per week".

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Section III: Start Date / Length of Agreement

State the date that care will begin. Remember, it must be a future date; the contract cannot be backdated. Also, it is important to include how long the agreement will remain in effect. This may be short term, such as just a few years, or for the life of the individual.

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Section IV: Pay Rate and Frequency of Payment

If appropriate, include a rate of pay (this can't be more than the going rate of a Home Care Aide in your area) and how often payment is rendered (e.g., weekly, bi-weekly, once a month, or lump sum).

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Section V: Modification / Termination Clause

If the agreement is long term, it is highly recommended that the agreement be reviewed, and modified as needed and/or on an annual basis. A clause that allows for termination of the agreement is also recommended.

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Signatures

Ensure both the care recipient and the caregiver sign the contract.

It is not a bad idea to have this document notarized and/or reviewed by an attorney!

Tips:

Work with a professional to ensure that setting up an agreement is the greatest benefit for preserving your family's assets. Best professionals to consult:

Financial Advisor

Elder Law Attorney

Also, ask about applicable tax benefits for individuals caring for aging parents. While not direct payment, tax breaks can be really helpful!

We're here to help!
www.eldercaresolutionsinc.com