

Tailored Supports for Older Adults (TSOA) and Medicaid Alternative Care (MAC) programs

❖ You can find all the fact sheets we link to here at [WashingtonLawHelp.org](https://www.WashingtonLawHelp.org).

What are the TSOA and MAC programs?

The TSOA and MAC programs provide services for **unpaid caregivers** who are taking care of someone who is 55 years old or older.

TSOA is for people who are not eligible for Medicaid. MAC is for people who are eligible for Medicaid but have chosen not to participate in a Medicaid program.

How do I get TSOA and MAC program coverage?

You can apply online through the DSHS website at [washingtonconnection.org/home](https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home) or go to your local DSHS office. Use the office locator at [dshs.wa.gov/office-locations](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/office-locations) to find an office near you. You can ask DSHS for help applying for the program. Read [DSHS Help for People with Disabilities: Necessary Supplemental Accommodations](#) to learn more.

What is the income limit for TSOA?

You are eligible for TSOA if your income is **\$3,868/month or less**.

What is the resource limit for TSOA?

The resource limit is **\$77,052** if you are single and **\$145,353** if you are married.

Some resources, like your house, car, and personal items don't get counted for the resource limit. Read [What can I buy and still be eligible for SSI and/or Medicaid?](#) to learn more.

What is the income limit for MAC?

You are eligible for MAC if you are eligible for “categorically needy” Medicaid or “alternative benefit plan” Medicaid. Generally, your income must be at or below

138% of the federal poverty level, which is **\$1,732/month** if you are single and **\$2,351/month** if you are married. You might qualify with higher income if you have certain disabilities.

What is the resource limit for MAC?

If you are already eligible for a Medicaid (“Apple Health”) program that does not have a resource limit, there is no resource limit.

Otherwise, the resource limit is **\$2,000** if you are single and **\$3,000** if you are married.

Some resources, like your house, car, and personal items don’t get counted for the resource limit. Read [What can I buy and still be eligible for SSI and/or Medicaid?](#) to learn more.

What is a CARE Assessment?

Once DSHS decides you’re financially eligible for TSOA or MAC, a specialist will interview you and your unpaid caregiver to find out what kind of help you need.

When does TSOA and MAC coverage start?

Coverage for both programs can start after a quick eligibility screening with DSHS. For TSOA, you might also have to go through an application process. But if it turns out you aren’t eligible for TSOA, you don’t have to pay anything back. There is no retroactive coverage for TSOA or MAC.

What services do TSOA and MAC offer?

There are different levels (or “steps”) of services for TSOA and MAC depending on what you and your unpaid caregiver need. Services can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Caregiver support groups;
- Caregiver training and consultation;
- Dietician consultation;
- Fall prevention workshops;

- Long-term care planning assistance;
- Short and long-term respite care;
- Home safety evaluation;
- Transportation assistance;
- Adult day health;
- Medical equipment and supplies;
- Personal emergency response system;
- Minor home modifications;
- Meals and housework.

Can I give my home or other resources away?

Yes. But be careful! If you're only getting TSOA or MAC, you can transfer your resources without penalty. But your ability to transfer resources may be limited for other programs you need now or in the future. Read [Community Options Program Entry System Waiver \(COPES\)](#) to learn more.

Do I pay for TSOA or MAC services?

No. You do not pay for services under TSOA and MAC programs.

Will DHS try to get paid back from my estate after I die?

No. But other Medicaid services involve "estate recovery". Read [Estate recovery for long-term care services paid for by the State](#) to learn more.

Get Legal Help

- **Apply online:** nwjustice.org/apply-online
- **Facing Eviction?** Call 1-855-657-8387
- **Facing Foreclosure?** Call 1-800-606-4819
- **Facing a legal issue in King County** (other than Eviction or Foreclosure)? Call 211 (or toll-free 1-877-211-9274) weekdays 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. They will refer you to a legal aid provider.
- **Facing a legal issue outside of King County** (other than Eviction or Foreclosure)? Call the CLEAR Hotline at 1-888-201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 am and 12:15 pm or apply online at nwjustice.org/apply-online.
- **Seniors (age 60 and over)** with a legal issue outside of King County can also call CLEAR*Sr at 1-888-387-7111

Deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired callers can call any of these numbers using the relay service of your choice.

Interpreters provided.

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