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The Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program

The Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program or AFCSP was a program created by the Wisconsin Legislature in 1985 in response to the stress and service needs of families caring at home for someone with irreversible dementia. To be eligible, a person must have a diagnosis of an irreversible dementia, and be financially eligible. The program is coordinated by the Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, and is available in every county throughout the state.

How does the AFCSP program work? Funds for AFCSP are made available in each county to assist individuals to purchase services and goods related to the care of someone with an irreversible dementia. There is a yearly maximum allocation that each participant can receive.

What types of goods and services does the program purchase?

Allowable services are those which are necessary to maintain a person with an irreversible dementia in the community. Typical services have included in-home help, respite care, adult day services, and transportation. Goods provided have included nutritional supplements, security systems, specialized clothing, home delivered meals, hobby equipment and chair lifts.

What are the income limits? A couple may have a joint income of \$40,000 or less. But if the couple's income is more than \$40,000, the costs related to the irreversible dementia can be subtracted from the gross income. If the net income is then less than \$40,000, the couple would be expected to contribute to the cost of services based on their ability to pay.

Do I need a doctor's statement? Yes, the person must be diagnosed with an irreversible dementia.

If the consumer is found to be eligible for a Wisconsin Long Term Care Medicaid Waiver Program (Family Care, Partnership, IRIS) they would not be eligible for AFCSP. To be eligible for Medicaid based LTC programs in Wisconsin, you must qualify functionally and financially for the Medicaid Waiver program. The Medicare program does not cover long term care services.

Felicia Elias
AFCSP Coordinator

cc: file

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