



RItE @ Home... A Choice for Care at Home

fact sheet

Program Description

RItE @ Home... A Choice for Care at Home is a new Shared Living option available for adults who cannot live alone and require a considerable amount of help with the activities of daily living, such as eating, dressing, personal hygiene, etc. This program provides an alternative to institutional care for those that meet clinical, financial and other program criteria. *The RItE @ Home* Program is a consumer-directed service designed to maximize the control and choice a person has over the services that are provided. It is provided through the Medicaid Program at the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS).

Eligibility

This service is available for Rhode Island seniors and adults with disabilities who are eligible for Medicaid Long Term Care (LTC) and are unable to live independently. To be eligible for Medicaid LTC, a person has to be determined financially eligible and must also meet certain clinical Level of Care criteria (highest or high). Persons interested in receiving *RItE @ Home* services must also meet all appropriateness criteria listed below.

How it Works

RItE @ Home provides a home-like setting for individuals who cannot live alone but who want to continue to live in the community as long as possible. There are two components to understanding the program: (1) the provider agency and (2) the caregiver and the host home.

- **Provider Agency**

The *RItE @ Home* Agency helps the person who needs care to find an appropriate host home/ caregiver. This may be someone the person already knows, like a relative, neighbor or friend. The Agency will “match” a client with a caregiver and will make sure the caregiver receives all needed training and support.

The Agency will (in conjunction with EOHHS)

- Oversee and monitor services;
- Ensure the safety of the host home;
- Provide training for the caregiver;
- Provide nursing support as needed, and
- Develop an individualized *RItE @ Home* Service and Safety Plan.

- **The Caregiver /Host Home**

Typically, the caregiver lives in his/her home and agrees to have the person needing care live with him/her. In some situations, the caregiver may agree to move into the care recipient’s home. The Caregiver is responsible for:

- Personal care, including assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
- Homemaker services
- Chore services
- Meals
- Transportation
- Being on call 24/7
- Providing socialization and a home-like environment

Benefits for the Caregiver include:

- A stipend for providing 24/7 care
- Respite or time off from full-time care

Medicaid pays the provider agency for its role and provides funding for caregiver stipends. However, Medicaid does not pay for room and board. Room and board is typically paid from the client's SSI and/or Social Security check. Also, the client (recipient of care) may incur a "cost share" for the services (not including room and board), depending on his/her income.

- **Appropriateness Criteria**

Recipients must meet the following Appropriateness Criteria:

- A person is not a danger to themselves or others in the shared home.
- A person must be able to take action for self-preservation (such as exiting the home in case of fire) with the assistance of no more than one person.
- Both the caregiver and the recipient must be informed of and willing to assume a certain amount of risk regarding safety inherent in this type of living arrangement.
- A recipient must be free from communicable disease or infectious conditions.

Other Considerations

- **Spouses** or legally liable persons cannot serve as the paid caregiver.
- **Adult Day Care** - The recipient of *RItE @ Home* Services is eligible to attend Adult Day Care. If that is the case, the caregiver's stipend will be reduced for days when a person attends Adult Day Care. This gives the caregiver an opportunity for employment or pursuing other interests.
- **Issues to be considered when matching a person to a caregiver:**
 - Geographic location
 - Pets
 - Children in the home
 - Lifestyle preferences, schedules, etc.
- **Tax Considerations**
The Caregiver's stipend is tax-free to the Caregiver when the care recipient lives in the Caregiver's home.

Provider Agencies

Two agencies have been approved to provide *RItE @ Home* services to eligible elders and adults with disabilities:

Caregiver Homes of Rhode Island

Contact: Brian McKaig at (401) 290-8429 or bmckaig@caregiverhomes.com
235 Promenade St., Suite 417, Providence, RI 02908
www.caregiverhomes.com

Seven Hills RI

Contact: Lisa Provencal, Program Coordinator, (401) 229-9760 or (401) 309-4093
30 Cumberland St., Woonsocket, RI 02895 or lprovencal@sevenhills.org

RItE @ Home...A Choice for Care at Home is one of the services available to clients who are eligible for Medicaid Long Term Care.