

RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS FOR SENIORS IN MINNESOTA

	Rental Apartments	Condos & Coops	Adult Foster Care Homes (Family or Corporate)	Board and Lodging Establishments	Non-Certified Boarding Care Homes	Nursing Homes & Certified Boarding Care Homes
Applicable License or Registration	MDH food license (through MDH or a local health dept.) required if congregate meals are prepared on site. HWS registration may apply. Home care license required if building directly provides “health-related” services.	MDH food license (through MDH or a local health dept.) required if congregate meals are prepared on site. Condos and coops generally do not provide home care services. Exempt from HWS registration.	DHS foster care home license (which is administered by the counties) required. Each setting may be licensed for up to 4 adults or up to 5 adults, if all residents are age 55 or older. HWS registration applies only to corporate foster care providers meeting the HWS criteria. Home care license is required if the home is registered as HWS and directly provides “health related” services.	MDH food license and lodging license (through MDH or a local health dept.), sometimes called board and lodging or hotel/motel. Lodging license required for establishments providing sleeping accommodations and meals to 5+ people for 1 week or more. HWS registration or B & L “special services” registration may be required. Home care license is required if registered as HWS and directly provide “health related” services.	MDH boarding care home license required for those homes that provide only personal or custodial care and related services for 5 or more aged/infirm persons over 16 years of age. Non-certified homes are not certified to participate in the MA program and do not provide “nursing” services. HWS registration may apply, and if so, the home may choose to obtain a home care license (nursing services may be provided under a home care license in non-certified homes).	Nursing home license from MDH is required where nursing care is provided to 5 or more persons (excludes hospitals, clinics, etc.)
Population Served	Primarily persons age 55 and older.	Primarily persons age 55 and older.	Functionally impaired adults at least 18 years old.	If registered as HWS, they primarily serve persons age 55 and older unless the B & L registers voluntarily. If not HWS, some limitations apply on types of residents that may be served.	Persons older than 16 who are aged or infirm (e.g., chronically mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or chemically dependent).	Persons older than 16 who are aged or infirm. Persons entering MA-certified homes must go through preadmission screening.

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Physical Characteristics	Private apartments with full kitchens. There may be common spaces for congregate dining and other activities. Buildings designed for “assisted living” may have smaller units with “kitchenettes” and may cluster units around a shared parlor or feature other innovative designs.	Private living units in a multi-family building or other type of development (e.g., townhouse, patio home, etc.). There may be common spaces for congregate dining and other activities.	Family foster care is provided in a private home, which is the primary residence of the license holder. Corporate foster care homes may be provided in existing single-family homes or duplexes, in “purpose built” buildings, or may even be found within apartment buildings. Rooms may be private or shared. Dining areas, bathrooms and other spaces are shared “family-style.” Corporate homes serving residents with memory loss may have special security features to prevent wandering and an enclosed outside area.	Private or shared rooms, often with a bath attached, though older buildings may have a “dorm” style bathroom. The rooms may look like studio apartments (but without the kitchen). There are common areas for congregate dining and for other activities. Those B & Ls serving residents with memory loss may have special security features to prevent wandering and an enclosed outside area.	Private or shared rooms, usually with a bath attached. There are common areas for congregate dining and for other activities.	Private or shared rooms with baths. Common space for dining and social activities. Those with special dementia units may have special security features to prevent wandering and an enclosed outside area.
Typical Services	Most offer social and recreational services and scheduled transportation to shopping. Many offer at least one meal 5-7 days per week. Other common services are:	Common services include social and recreational activities, some meals, and scheduled transportation. Housekeeping and service coordination may be available. If	Basic services typically include 3 daily meals, supervision/protection, and household services. Homes serving seniors typically provide some transportation; social	Basic services usually include 3 daily meals, linen services and some housekeeping. B & Ls serving seniors frequently provide 24-hour staffing; emergency response; social and	Basic services usually include 3 daily meals; linens; housekeeping; laundry; personal care such as baths, medication storage and supervision; social and recreational activities;	Linens; laundry; 3 daily meals and snacks and special diets; housekeeping; nursing services (including assistance with dressing, grooming, bathing, toileting, eating);

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	emergency response; service coordination; housekeeping; 24-hour staffing. Assisted living programs with personal care and other services may be offered.	owners need home care services, they contract directly with a home care provider.	and recreational activities; laundry; personal care; medication management; and other home care services.	recreational activities; personal care; laundry; medication management; and other home care services	and 24-hour supervision. If non-certified homes want to offer additional services beyond those permitted under the boarding care license, they may request a MDH waiver or may obtain a home care license.	medication storage and administration; rehabilitative nursing; special treatments; psycho-social services; chaplaincy; and recreational and social activities. Optional services may include therapy services, respite, specialized care for people with Alzheimer's and other diseases; and hospice.
Available Funding	Federal (and occasionally local) rent subsidies may be available. Minnesota's AC or EW programs may cover the cost of services for eligible tenants.	Minnesota's AC or EW program might cover the cost of services for qualified owner occupants with limited incomes.	GRH may be available to cover room and board costs. Services may be covered by EW or AC.	GRH may be available for room and board costs. Services may be covered by EW or AC.	MA is not available to non-certified boarding care homes. Non-certified homes may receive GRH for room and board costs and may receive Supplementary Service rates to cover services for qualified residents who are not eligible for MA. Non-certified homes that obtain a home care license may receive EW/AC funding for services for eligible residents.	MA if the nursing home is certified.

Key: HWS – HWS
EW – Elderly Waiver, a Medicaid program
AC – Alternative Care, a state program that is similar to EW
GRI – Group Residential Housing, a state program that currently pays a maximum of \$633 for lodging and food
MA – Medical Assistance, Minnesota’s Medicaid Program