

HOUSING

As we age, our needs for care and types of housing may change. Some older adults will make care accommodations at home, while others may choose to move in with relatives. Some may move to an apartment or condominium that does not require the maintenance or financial burden of home ownership. Others may choose housing specifically designed for older adults.

RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

Below are brief descriptions of a variety of housing alternatives. Compare each option, taking into consideration your financial situation, your health, and long-term needs. Location may be important if you want to be near family, friends, medical facilities, or other familiar surroundings.

Planning ahead for your long-term needs, and your spouse's needs, can help to alleviate the stress of having to make a quick decision and provide time for better planning of finances.

DuPage County Community Services - Intake & Referral

421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6500, Toll Free 1-800-942-9412

www.dupageco.org/seniorsvcs

The above DuPage County Senior Services website provides listings of the following categories of housing options provided in our Housing Directory and in our Long-Term Care Directory.

Assisted Living Facilities

This may be an option for individuals who need assistance but do not require on-going skilled nursing care. Medicare and Medicaid do not cover this type of custodial care. The Illinois Department of Public Health is the licensing and monitoring agency.



Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRC)

Provides a continuum of care for older adults including independent living, supportive services and nursing care. A “life care community” usually requires a substantial entrance fee and additional monthly maintenance fees. CCRC’s guarantee that you will have a home and the care you need for as long as you live there.

Federally Subsidized Housing

Provides an independent living community, with rent subsidized by the government. These units are geared towards older adults, who pay approximately 30% of their income for rent. At some locations, other social services may be available through an on-site social services employee.

Subsidized housing is provided through a voucher program or through a project-based subsidy.

DuPage Housing Authority

711 E Roosevelt Road, Wheaton, IL. 60187

(630) 690-3555

www.dupagehousing.org



The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program (formerly called Section 8) is offered through the DuPage Housing Authority, when available. Most times the wait list for these vouchers is so long, the list is temporarily closed. Once a voucher is obtained, it is transferable from one approved location to another and is renewable annually.

Project Based Voucher (PBV) subsidy program units and the Rental Housing Support Program (RHSP) units are available through the management offices of specific complexes. You must apply directly to the apartment buildings that you are interested in to be put on their wait lists and to be considered for these discounted rental units. The subsidy remains with the building and cannot be transferred.

Independent Living Communities

Individual apartments or condominiums designed especially for older adults who are able to care for themselves. Some may offer additional supportive services included in the rent. The rent is not subsidized for these units.

Long-Term Care Facilities

Placement in this type of facility may be the only option available when the needs of an older or disabled adult can no longer be met by family, friends or community services.

Nursing facilities can provide sheltered care, intermediate care, and skilled medical care for those needing prolonged care. While Medicare will pay for a short-term stay for rehabilitation, it does not cover long-term care. Individuals can apply for Medicaid to those facilities accepting this form of payment. A pre-admission screening is also required.

Shared Housing

Senior Home Sharing, Inc.

711 E. Roosevelt Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-0440

www.seniorhomesharing.org



Provides a shared group home and support services for seniors 62 and older. Residents must be capable of self-care and are responsible for their own personal needs. This home setting provides private rental bedrooms, three meals daily, light housekeeping and laundry of linens. The Housing Choice Voucher (formerly called Section 8) is accepted.

Supportive Living Facilities

Offers assisted living units administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDPH) housing with services to qualified persons eligible for Medicaid. The program provides apartment-style living with personal care provided by 24-hour professional licensed staff. A care plan is developed that includes assistance for meals, personal care, homemaking services, and medication supervision. A pre-admission screening is required.



LONG-TERM CARE ASSISTANCE

Decisions regarding placement should be made with care to ensure the best interests of the prospective resident. Whenever possible, the prospective resident should be involved in the decision-making process.

- Get detailed information about performance for the certified long-term care facilities of interest www.medicare.gov/nhcompare
- Visit several facilities informally to identify those that have characteristics you consider important
- Schedule an appointment with the administrator or the director of admissions at the facilities being considered
- After narrowing down the selection, complete paperwork needed for admittance
- Obtain a pre-admission assessment called the “Choices for Care” screening

Choices for Care Program

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All long-term care facility applicants, regardless of payment method, must have a pre-admission assessment (Public Act 89-0021) completed before they can be admitted. This “Choices for Care” screening is a comprehensive assessment by a professional case manager to determine the appropriateness of placement, discuss eligibility for Medicaid, and provide information on alternative home and community-based services.

Equip for Equality

Northeastern Region (312) 341-0022

Toll Free 1-800-537-2632, 1-800-610-2779 TTY

www.equipforequality.org

This organization is designated by the Governor to safeguard the rights of people with all disabilities, regardless of age, in a long-term care facility. The program provides self-advocacy assistance, legal services, disability rights education, public policy advocacy, and conducts abuse investigations.



Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)

245 W. Roosevelt Road, Building #5, West Chicago, IL 60185

(630) 293-6800, Toll Free 1-800-252-4343, 1-800-547-0466 (TDD)

Email: dph.ccr@illinois.gov

www.idph.state.il.us



Assures the long-term care facilities meet the licensing requirements of the state and comply with federal and state rules and regulations. Facilities must pass an annual certification survey. Annual surveys of individual facilities can be viewed on their website.

IDPH is required to investigate all complaints they receive against long-term care facilities. Complaints may be filed in writing, by emailing, in person, or by calling their toll-free hotline phone number.

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

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421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6500

www.dupageco.org/seniorsvcs



The program is designed to protect and promote the rights and quality of life for those persons who reside in long-term care facilities and in licensed assisted living facilities.

The role of the Ombudsman is to provide advocacy for the resident. The Ombudsman responds to questions, concerns, and complaints that involve individuals who live in a long-term care facility.

Information is also provided by the Ombudsman to residents and their family members concerning resident rights, facility care responsibilities, admissions contracts, Medicare and Medicaid.

Long-Term Care Facility Residents Have A Right:

- ❖ To safety and good care
- ❖ To participate in their care plan development
- ❖ To privacy, respect and dignity
- ❖ To make financial decisions
- ❖ To be free from restraint and abuse
- ❖ To vote and have freedom of speech
- ❖ To receive Medicare and Medicaid benefits

HOUSING ADVOCATES

Community Housing Advocacy and Development (CHAD)

531 E. Roosevelt Road, Suite 200, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 456-4452

www.chadhousing.org



CHAD is a non-profit corporation that provides affordable rental housing to eligible individuals and families. CHAD's residents include those who have their own income source and those with agency or DuPage Housing Authority support.

H.O.M.E. DuPage

1600 E. Roosevelt Road, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 260-2500

www.homedupage.org



A non-profit organization providing financial education and financial counseling. Services include home buyer workshops, foreclosure prevention assistance programs and Financial Fitness classes. This organization does not provide cash assistance.

Assists with a Reverse Mortgage, a type of Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM), that allows a homeowner to withdraw equity from their home. Depending on the available equity, this loan can provide the older homeowner with monthly cash advances or occasional lump sums that do not require repayment until the home is sold.

Other services include information and counseling for seniors for tax relief options and low-cost home repair programs to help older homeowners remain in their homes.

Hope Fair Housing Center

202 W. Willow Avenue, Suite 203, Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 690-6500

(630) 690-6553 (TDD)

www.hopefair.org



Promotes equal housing, lending, and insurance. HOPE seeks to eliminate housing discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or family status. Offers investigative services and legal referrals.

Leading Age Illinois

1001 Warrenville Road, Suite 150, Lisle, IL 60532

(630) 325-6170

www.leadingageil.org

Statewide, non-profit trade organization representing faith-based providers offering the complete continuum of housing options including nursing homes, assisted living communities and continuing care retirement communities.

ADDITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Assisted Living 1-866-355-7043

Helps identify and locate the most appropriate assisted living option. Offers free senior care information to guide families through the process of finding assisted living.

www.assistedliving.com

Housing and Urban Development 1-312-353-6236 (regional office)

Offers various information regarding housing with a section specific to seniors.

Provides information regarding rental assistance, home repair, and a list of HUD approved counseling agencies.

www.hud.gov

Illinois Hardest Hit Program 1-855-533-7411

Free service to Illinois residents combining the resources of various state agencies and non-profit agencies to guide you through your options for keeping your home.

www.ilhardesthit.org

Illinois Housing Search 1-877-428-8844

Offers free listing services for landlords and apartment seekers. Provides detailed information about rental properties to help people find available housing.

www.ilhousingsearch.org

SeniorAdvisor 1-800-805-3621

Offers helpful tools and quick access to reviews and ratings for senior living communities nationwide.

www.senioradvisor.com

