

## Home Again

### NFOCUS Service Code

Home Again 8324

### Service Definition

Home Again is a service for adults, aged 18 years and over, on the HCBS Waiver for Aged and Adults and Children with Disabilities (AD). It provides a one-time payment to an approved provider to assist, support, and enable a participant to move from a nursing facility to a more independent living situation of the participant's choice. This service includes non-recurring set-up expenses for a living arrangement in a private residence where the participant is directly responsible for their own living expenses.

### Conditions of Provision

- A. The need for Home Again is identified during participant assessment and included in the person-centered plan (PCP).
- B. Home Again must be:
  - 1. Reasonable and necessary as determined through the service plan development process;
  - 2. Clearly identified in the PCP;
  - 3. Beyond the participants' ability to meet such expenses; and
  - 4. Unavailable from other sources.
- C. The recipient must be a current nursing facility resident whose nursing facility services have been paid for by Medicaid for at least three months.
  - 1. Rehabilitative nursing facility stays do not qualify a person for this service.
- D. Approval of services or items is strictly at the discretion of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).
- E. All covered items become the property of the participant.
- F. The participant may be authorized for services in one or more of the following areas:
  - 1. Essential furniture, appliances, furnishings, and household supplies;
  - 2. Deposits and fees such as security, utility, application, and installation;
  - 3. Activities to assess needs and arrange for necessary home accessibility adaptations not covered by other services;
  - 4. Moving expenses;
  - 5. Assistance from a Home Again sponsor; or
  - 6. Expenses for other services or items related to the move that are essential to remove barriers to the transition or its success.
- G. Home Again does not include the following:
  - 1. Rent or mortgage expenses;
  - 2. Food;
  - 3. Regular utility charges;
  - 4. Household appliances, televisions, or items intended for purely diversional or recreational purposes;

5. Items or services not essential to supporting the move or ensuring its success;
  6. Items or services available through the Medicaid state plan or through another service of the AD Waiver;
  7. Items or services available at no cost from relatives, friends, or any other source;
  8. Items or services that are the responsibility of the assisted living (AL) provider or included in the participant's public assistance budget; and
  9. Furnishing living arrangements owned or leased by a waiver provider where the provisions of these items and services are included in the waiver service they are providing.
- H. Home Again is limited to once during a twelve-month period.
- I. The authorization period for Home Again services may begin as soon as the participant, Service Coordinator, and nursing facility staff agree on a discharge plan that indicates a move to a more independent setting.
- J. Expenditures may be authorized up to 60 days in advance of the planned move date and for 30 days after the actual move date.
- K. Any prior-authorized transition expenses incurred in good faith will be covered even if the transition does not ultimately occur due to unforeseen circumstances including, but not limited to, the participant experiencing a medical emergency.

## Provider Requirements

- A. All providers of waiver services must:
1. Be a Medicaid provider;
  2. Comply with all applicable Titles of the Nebraska Administrative Code and Nebraska State Statutes;
  3. Adhere to standards described in the Division of Medicaid and Long-Term Care Service Provider Agreement;
  4. Complete DHHS trainings upon request;
  5. Use universal precautions; and
  6. Employ staff who have qualifications, experience, and abilities necessary to carry out services comparable to those that will be authorized.
- B. A Home Again provider may be an individual, business, organization, or agency.
- C. Providers of Home Again must furnish a designated Home Again sponsor for each participant. The sponsor will:
1. Assist the participant as necessary to locate and procure accessible, affordable housing.
  2. Provide support in dealing with changes related to the transition and move.
  3. Supply the up-front funding to obtain the essential items and services included in the PCP.
  4. Meet the following minimum standards:
    - a. Recognize and support the participant's choices in selecting items and services provided through Home Again;
    - b. Have experience carrying out activities related to locating housing and setting up a household; and
    - c. Assure any vehicle and driver transporting a participant to look for housing or other transition needs meets applicable licensing and safety laws and regulations.

## Rates

- A. The Home Again rate consists of payment for the actual cost of items and services necessary for the participant's move and any payment to the sponsor.
- B. The maximum amount allowed for Home Again is determined annually by DHHS.

- C. Payment for Home Again is not counted in the participant's monthly cost for AD Waiver services.
- D. Providers must bill for Home Again in the following ways:
  1. Totaling and submitting dated receipts for purchases made on behalf of the participant.
  2. Totaling and submitting receipts or other written documentation of the financial obligation incurred on behalf of the participant for security deposits, utility installation, and fees.
  3. Providing a detailed listing of the dates and activities performed if payment for the sponsor's time is authorized.
  4. Submitting a billing request for the total amount of expenses incurred.