

Long Term Care Partnership

Minnesotans who purchase certain long-term care insurance policies will be able to protect more of their assets under a new state plan known as the Minnesota Long Term Care (LTC) Partnership. The plan is intended to give people greater control over how they finance their long-term care, while also addressing the demographic pressures that are expected to make the current long-term care financing system difficult to sustain in the future.

Currently, in order to qualify for Medical Assistance, a consumer must first draw down his or her personal assets. The Long Term Care Partnership gives Minnesota consumers the ability to protect assets up to the amount of long-term care coverage they purchase. For example, consumers who purchase \$100,000 of coverage would be able to keep an additional \$100,000 of their assets if benefits from a long-term care policy are exhausted and they need to apply for Medical Assistance.

In order to receive approval from the Department of Commerce, plans must contain consumer protections including inflation protection. Many plans already offer these protections as insurance companies have already begun preparing for the implementation of the Long Term Care Partnership.

State law does not require Minnesota insurers to exchange coverage with their insureds that does not meet the requirements of the Partnership program. However, the state is encouraging insurers to do this and insured persons should ask their insurer if they are eligible for such an exchange.

Partnership plans are particularly aimed at people who aren't currently buying coverage, including younger people of more modest means who have more assets to protect and want more choice and control about how they will pay for their long-term care.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce is responsible for approving the plans. The Long Term Care Partnership program is administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

For more information visit the Long Term Care Partnership website <<http://www.mnltcpartnership.org/>> or call the Senior LinkAge Line at 1-800-333-2433.