



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LSSI Provides Assessments for Seniors Looking for Home Care and Emergency Response Services

Effective July 1, 2010, the state of Illinois eliminated the co-pay for home services for seniors that are provided through its Community Care Program (CCP). Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), which is contracted by the state to provide these and other services to residents in Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties, urges adults 60 years and older who, in the past, may have declined service because they were unable to afford the co-payment to consider being reassessed so that they can reapply for the program.

Says Emily Taylor, assistant director of LSSI's Case Coordination Unit, "The elimination of service co-pays is a benefit for local seniors who've declined needed services in the past because of the extra monthly expense. The availability of these services enables seniors to continue living in the community instead of having to live in a nursing home."

The Community Care Program assists older adults, who wish to remain in their homes as long as possible, by providing non-medical home services. This gives seniors an alternative to entering a long-term care facility. To be eligible, seniors must be 60 years old or older and have an in-home assessment to determine what services may benefit them. Those services include help with daily tasks, such as cleaning, laundry, personal care, shopping, meal preparation and transportation. Emergency Home Response Services are also available for a reduced rate or no charge to eligible seniors.

Under a contract with the Illinois Department on Aging, LSSI administers the CCP, Case Management, Choices for Care and Caregiver Case Management in the four-county area. LSSI's Case Coordination Unit (CCU) provides the assessment for the CCP. These comprehensive assessments are available to all seniors, regardless of their income and assets. Upon the assessment, a case manager is assigned to the individual. This manager will focus on the person's specific needs and map out a service plan for him or her.

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Individuals who are found to ineligible for the CCP may also have a case manager assigned to them. In this instance, the case manager will develop a comprehensive care plan that links the older person to needed resources, such as home-delivered meals, senior centers, home nursing or other needed services.

LSSI's Case Coordination Unit also performs Choices for Care assessments within the four-county area to assess an individual's need for nursing home care. After the assessment, the individual is given a choice: to enter a nursing facility on a short- or long-term basis; to receive assistance through the Community Care Program if eligible; or to receive assistance through the Office of Rehabilitation Services, supportive living facility services or referrals to private pay resources.

For more information on LSSI's Community Care Program, call 815/626-7333 or visit www.LSSI.org/Service/CaseManagementServicesForSeniors.aspx.

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About Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), as well as an agency of the United Way. LSSI serves people of all faiths through an array of services at 83 program sites across Illinois. In north central Illinois, LSSI offers counseling, substance abuse treatment, foster care, youth programs and adoption, as well as services for older adults and individuals with developmental disabilities. For more information, visit www.LSSI.org or LSSI's Facebook page