

AASD eList announcement

Date: Jan. 7, 2025

To: Lead agency staff

From: DHS Aging and Adult Services Division

Purpose: To clarify how and when the Senior LinkAge Line can help

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How the Senior LinkAge Line can and cannot help

The [Senior LinkAge Line](#) provides services and supports statewide to older Minnesotans and their caregivers. However, there are some things lead agencies must do that the Senior LinkAge Line cannot. This eList provides clarification.

Senior LinkAge Line's role

The Senior LinkAge Line can help people with:

- Medicare: The Senior LinkAge Line can provide information about the parts of Medicare, as well help people compare Advantage Plans, Medigap plans and prescription drug plans.
- Medicare Savings Programs and ExtraHelp: The Senior LinkAge Line can screen people on Medicare for programs that help pay their Medicare costs and prescription costs.
- Program assistance: The Senior LinkAge Line can help people look for program assistance if they are not eligible for county program assistance.
- Connecting to services: The Senior LinkAge Line can help connect people to local services and supports, including home-delivered meals, chore services, transportation, etc.
- Resource coordination: The Senior LinkAge Line can help people who are not on county programs who wish to transition from a facility back into the community.

Lead agency's role

Lead agency staff must help with:

- Spenddowns: Lead agencies must help people with Medical Assistance (MA) spenddowns.
- Estate recovery: Lead agencies must help with people's estate recovery in conjunction with MA.
- Pending applications and eligibility: While the Senior LinkAge Line can help people complete applications, lead agencies must help with pending applications and communicate about eligibility.
- Enrollment in Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO), Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+) and Special Needs BasicCare (SNBC). Lead agencies are responsible to help people enroll in these programs.
- Waiver services: Lead agencies must help with waiver services for a person's care plan.
- Medicare Savings Programs and ExtraHelp: Lead agencies should screen dual-eligible people for programs that help pay their Medicare costs and prescription costs.
- Program assistance: Lead agencies can help people look for program assistance if they receive county assistance.
- Connecting to services: Lead agencies can also connect people to local services and supports, including home-delivered meals, chore services, transportation, etc.

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