



6 WAYS TO PAY FOR HOME CARE

Knowing that your parents or loved ones receive the highest quality of senior care is extremely important. You want to ensure that your loved ones are kept safe, healthy, and comfortable, while guaranteeing that their dignity is respected by their caregivers. Whether your loved ones prefer to receive care in their own home or relocate to a facility, you need to find a solution for payment. Simply put, the quality in-home senior care you envision for your loved ones is not inexpensive, but it is worth it.

Unlike making other large purchases, when paying for senior care services, people have a wider variety of payment options. However, many adults trying to decide about elder care aren't aware of these strategies. As a leader of the in-home senior care industry, we are invested in ensuring that as many people as possible have access to knowledge and strategies about how to pay for the care their loved ones need.

6 Ways to Pay for In-Home Care

1) Reverse Mortgages are a Popular Senior Care Payment Strategy

A reverse mortgage is a financial arrangement in which one exchanges equity in their home for regular payments. One of the most popular methods to pay for in-home care, reverse mortgages were introduced by the government to help seniors stay in their homes until they pass. As a result, these types of loans are only available to those who are 62 and older. However, this option also comes with certain limitations. For example, the original bank that offered the loan must be paid back before a chunk of the reverse mortgage is paid. In addition, the value of your house determines the size of the installment payments you receive. Consult with a bank or broker to determine if using a reverse mortgage to help pay for senior home health care or live in assistance is the correct solution for you.

2) Veteran's Benefits Can be Used to Pay for In-Home Senior Care

For people who have served in our country's military, Veteran's Benefits can help pay for senior home health care. However, the process to acquire Veteran's Benefits can prove time-consuming. A series of pre-requisite steps must be met to secure these benefits. Firstly, you need to prove that your loved one actively served for more than ninety days. In addition, you must demonstrate that the person in question received an honorable discharge from the military. Finally, your loved one must receive documentation from their doctor, stating that he or she is unable to care for themselves. If you need assistance or support proving that your loved one is eligible for Veteran's Benefits, you can reach out to Veteran's Service Organizations (VSOs). For those who have served, this is a great method to pay for in-home senior care services or can augment hospice services.

3) How Life Insurance Covers the Cost of In-Home Senior Care

Although it is not a common practice, your loved one can use their life insurance policy to cover the cost of in-home senior care services or live-in assistance. If you and your loved one decide to use his or her life insurance policy to help pay for senior home health care services, the process involves finding a party interested in buying the policy for part of the total value. Typically, the most straightforward way to acquire the money is by having your loved one sell the policy back to the insurance company for half of its value. If the company will not buy the policy back, you can find a private party or company to buy the policy and pay the premiums until your loved one passes away. This strategy can be an effective way to secure a large sum of money immediately. This may be necessary to pay for particularly in-depth services such as dementia care or 24-hour home care.

4) A Collective Sibling Agreement to Manage Your Parents In-Home Senior Care

Partnering with your siblings to plan — and to pay for — your parents' in-home care can help you feel supported in more ways than one. Many siblings report that coming together to figure out how to pay for in-home senior care or assisted living care will allow you all to do less worrying. While pooling your resources with your family can be one of the best strategies, establishing responsibilities

in writing can prove helpful. Even if there is no "official" documentation involved with doing this, you and your siblings need to guarantee what you are able—and unable—to pay. Combining resources to pay for in-home senior care should be a straightforward arrangement, however some tension and disagreement may arise down the road if someone suddenly finds themselves unable to contribute. Furthermore, if one of your siblings decides to serve as your parents' home care aide and expects some reimbursement, they need to log hours, as well as maintain receipts and invoices. Having them maintain the same procedures as any other in-home senior care service will help the process go as smoothly as possible. While this can be a fantastic senior care solution, you may need to supplement it with other payment methods.

5) Limits to Long-Term Care Insurance for Senior Care

You would think using your long-term care insurance to pay for in-home care or dementia care would be simple. However, this is frequently easier said than done. Some major long-term care policies do not recognize home care providers as offering necessary medical services. In order to utilize your long-term care insurance, you will likely have to demonstrate your loved one's unique and extenuating circumstances. These medical circumstances are often related to serious injuries or chronic medical conditions. While this strategy can prove viable in some cases, it will not be without considerable work on your part.

6) Using an Annuity to Pay for In-Home Senior Care

Annuities are a method for senior citizens to receive a fixed income during the last years of their lives. Using an annuity to pay for home senior care or live-in assistance is a common and recommended strategy. In fact, the money received from the annuity can be used any way deemed necessary. However, since the annuity likely also covers other crucial expenses, you need to ensure that there is sufficient money to pay for both in-home care and the other equally important expenses. As a result, an annuity often serves as a supplement to other senior care payment strategies.

[Keep Reading for
Parental Care FAQs](#)



Parental Care FAQs

Decisions about caring for your loved ones are among the most challenging ones you can make. After all, these choices don't just affect your life but the lives of people you care about deeply. We've compiled several crucial senior care questions we field every day.

1) Should I leave my job to take care of my parents?

This is a difficult choice that everyone needs to make on their own, based on their unique situation. We can't give you an answer but we can give you more factors to consider.

Think about the difference in the income you make compared to the cost of the in-home care you'll be paying for. If your salary is significantly less than the cost of care, it may make sense for you to choose to be your parents' full time in-home care aide.

However, leaving your job may impact your health insurance and your own retirement planning. In addition, taking a break from your career can make starting it again difficult after your parents pass.

Furthermore, consider the emotional ramifications of serving as your parents' in-home caregiver. Some children find this to be an experience that enhances an already strong relationship. For others, it turns time with a loved one into a burden. Careful consideration is necessary when making this life-altering choice.

2) What is the difference between a Medicare certified in-home care agency and a non-certified in-home care agency?

Medicare-certified agencies incorporate medical professionals, such as registered nurses, into their in-home care plans. On the other hand, non-certified agencies do not incorporate in-home medical professionals, but instead have seniors continue their relationships with medical specialists and provide transportation to those appointments. As a result, Medicare-certified agencies typically charge between \$8 to \$10 more per hour of care.

While Medicare-certified agencies are eligible to be paid by Medicare, there is a limit to the number of months Medicare will cover. Since Medicare will only cover a limited number of sessions, families are left to pay the higher price for years after Medicare support is discontinued.

Unless you only require a finite period of home care, non-Medicare certified care agencies are the better choice.

3) Can I use in-home care as a tax write off?

As is the case with everything involving taxes, this question doesn't have a simple answer. Many people are able to write off the expenses every year. However, whether you can or cannot depends on your unique circumstances. Consult with a tax professional when filing your taxes.

4) What does an assisted living facility cost per year in Lancaster, PA?

Good question. This is one of the biggest factors that affects whether people chose in-home care or an assisted living facility. AARP estimates that the yearly price of an assisted living facility in Lancaster, PA is approximately \$128,000.

5) Is By Your Side Care more expensive, less expensive, or comparatively priced to similar agencies and services?

Upon comparison with similar in-home senior care agencies, your total cost of care is well below average. Thus, you receive the best care available at an affordable price. The unique structure of our business allows By Your Side Home Care to keep its overhead low, and therefore pass these savings on to you.

Clients pay their caregivers directly, based on rates that are negotiated by both parties prior to the start of care. By Your Side Home Care supplies rate ranges for caregiver services in your area.

A separate fee is paid to By Your Side Home Care to cover the administrative tasks performed for clients. These fees vary due to a variety of factors, including the number of hours requested and care option levels. Total fees paid are regularly well below the national average for home senior care services.