

# Caregiver Support Program

Caring for an elderly relative or grandchild in the home can be stressful and sometimes costly. The Caregiver Support Program offers a variety of services which target the needs of those families who are caring for an age 60 or older functionally dependent care receiver, individuals with Alzheimer's Disease or other chronic dementia or grandchild under age 18. The financial assistance is provided to reinforce, rather than replace care being provided to the elderly individual. The financial benefits are available to reimburse caregivers for expenses directly related to the provision of care.

## Services and Benefits Uniquely Available through the Caregiver Program

- In most cases applicants qualify for a reimbursement rate of 100% toward monthly expenses of their care plan cost for the purchase of necessary pre-approved supplies and or service (liberal income guidelines apply). Some examples for these include disposable briefs and wages of workers hired to provide respite.

- Reimbursement (limited to \$5,000) for home modifications or assistive devices. (Liberal income guidelines apply). Some examples include wheelchair ramps and stair glides

- Supplemental Services Available: benefits counseling, service recommendation and referral.

## Eligible Consumer

To be eligible for the service, you must be the primary care giver of:

- A person age 60 or older that requires continuous supervision/care or
- A person under age 60 with Alzheimer's Disease or other chronic dementia or
- A grandparent or relative age 55 or older raising a grandchild under age 18. You must be related by blood, marriage or adoption to the child(ren)

The Department of Aging defines "family member", etc. and it provides income guidelines pertaining to the household which govern those Caregiver benefits of a financial nature.

## Application Process

Interested applicants should phone the Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging at 724-548-3290 to arrange for a home visit by the CSP care manager. The care manager will evaluate and consider the appropriateness for Agency on Aging programs. (Some programs are not necessarily available simultaneously). The care manager will guide the family in choosing services that will be most beneficial to their situation. Applicants whose primary interest is not in Caregiver Support financial benefits, are directed toward the Agency's regular gamut of services so as to preserve Caregiver slots for those who wish to avail themselves of its unique benefits.

If choosing the CSP is the family's best alternative, the care manager will help the family arrange those benefits unique to the CSP, enabling them to receive maximum financial benefits and maximum control and flexibility.

The assessment process requires both the care giver to be assessed every six (6) months.