

## **COMPANION SERVICE**

Companion service is a drop-in, habilitative service and includes adaptive skill development, non-medical care, supervision, socialization and assisting a waiver participant in maintaining safety in the home and enhancing independence in self-care and home living skills. Companion Service is provided to the participant in their home.

Companion service assists a participant to live in a private residence (non-provider operated or controlled) when the participant requires a range of community based support to live as independently as possible. Companion service provides individually tailored supports that assist with the acquisition, retention, or improvement in skills related to living successfully in the community.

Companion Service includes prompting and supervising the participant in completing tasks including but not limited to, activities of daily living (ADL); health maintenance; meal preparation; laundry; teaching the use of police, fire, and emergency assistance; performing routine household activities to maintain a clean and safe home; and managing personal financial affairs. Companion service staff do not perform these activities for the participant.

Companion Services may be self-directed.

### **Scope and Limitation**

- Companion Services are available for any participants ages 18 and older.
- This service cannot be authorized in conjunction with residential habilitation services.
- The amount of prior authorized services is based on the participant's need as documented in the service plan, and within the participant's approved annual budget.
- Companion Services cannot exceed a weekly amount of 25 hours.
- Companion Service is reimbursed as an hourly unit.
- Transportation is not included in the reimbursement rate.
- Companion Service shall not overlap with, supplant, or duplicate other services provided through Medicaid State plan or HCBS Waiver services.
- This service shall exclude any services available through public education programs funded under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This includes services not otherwise available through public education programs in the participant's local school district, including after school supervision and daytime services when school is not in session (i.e., summer breaks and/or scheduled school holidays, in-service days, etc.). Services cannot be provided during the school hours set by the local school district for the participant. Regular school hours and days apply for a child who receives home schooling.
- Companion Services may be provided by a relative but not a legally responsible individual or guardian.
- A Companion Service provider or provider staff must be 19 years of age to provide services.