

Social Isolation Programs for Medicaid LTSS Consumers

Overview

Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) currently has four programs for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) consumers who feel isolated or lonely: Robotic Pets, Get Set Up, GrandPad, and GrandPad + Music. Consumers can receive all four programs to help address isolation, and there are no household limits.

Robotic Pets

Available in cat or dog form and multiple color options (see images). These pets make animal noises like purring or barking. They can react to sound and motion by turning their head. Robotic pets are battery-operated and designed to sit on an individual's lap and be stroked or snuggled. This is most beneficial for individuals with impaired cognition, dementia, or those who miss being a pet owner.



Eligibility

- Medicaid LTSS consumers in the following care settings: In-Home or community-based care (for example, Adult Foster Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, Memory Care Communities).
- Not eligible: State Plan Personal Care (SPPC), Oregon Project Independence (OPI), Oregon Project Independence-Medicaid (OPI-M), and Nursing Facility residents.

Referrals

- Case managers or consumers can request a pet by email apd.roboticpet@odhs.oregon.gov or call 503-779-7690.
 - Provide consumer's name, current phone number, and prime number or date of birth.
- Once eligibility is confirmed, central office will share the consumer's name and contact information with our partners at Access

Technologies Inc (ATI). ATI will contact the consumer to discuss pet type, color preferences and care instructions. They will ship the pet directly to the consumer.

Get Set Up

An online platform taught by older adults, for older adults. Includes live classes on topics including cooking and nutrition, financial well-being, exercise, and more. The website has chat groups for individuals with similar interests to help build community and reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation.

Eligibility

- Medicaid LTSS in-home consumers
- Not eligible: SPPC, OPI, OPI-M

Referrals

- Case managers can provide the direct link:
<https://www.getsetup.io/partner/oregon>
 - Consumers set up an account and register for classes.
 - For consumers who do not have an internet connected device to access the classes, request a GrandPad using [this link](#).
- Site accessibility
 - Classes are available in English, Mandarin, Hindi, and Spanish, and all have closed captioning options.

GrandPad

GrandPad tablets allow users to make voice and video calls with friends and family, share photos, read articles, listen to music, and play games. They are designed for consumers who benefit from a simplified tablet. Tablets work with or without Wi-Fi.

Eligibility

- Medicaid LTSS in-home consumers
- Need cell phone signal at their home

- Not eligible: SPPC, OPI, or OPI-M

Referrals

- Case managers can fill out this online form: <https://forms.office.com/g/jjRnAyAugE>. The link is also located under the “Make a Request” section on CM tools.
- Shipping and user support will be managed by GrandPad. Referrals approved by the 15th of each month will be fulfilled the following month.

GrandPad + Music

GrandPads may include music support for consumers assessed as full or substantial assist in cognition. This feature allows for a natural support to assist with selecting meaningful songs for the consumer.

- The referral and eligibility processes are the same as for GrandPad.
 - Referral form asks if the GrandPad will mainly be used for music support or social/community engagement.

Contact

If you have policy questions about the social isolation programs, contact Paige Organick-Lee, Operations and Policy Analyst, at paige.w.organick-lee@odhs.oregon.gov.

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