

KDADS Information on the Senior Care Act – Senior Care Task Force – Working Group B

The Senior Care Act (SCA) program was established by the Kansas Legislature in 1989. The purpose of SCA is to assist older Kansans (defined as 60 years of age or older) who have functional limitations in self-care and independent living but who are able to reside in a community-based residence with services provided. Designed to prevent premature nursing facility placement, the SCA program administered across the State by the Area Agencies on Aging provides in-home services to persons who contribute to the cost of services based on their ability and willingness to pay for a portion of their care.

Senior Care Act services vary slightly by county but include attendant care, respite care, homemaker, chore services and adult day care. To be determined eligible for the service each potential client is provided a functional assessment and the resulting long-term care threshold score for the individual must be a minimum score of 26. Once determined eligible, a plan of care outlining the services needed is jointly developed by the assessor and the individual. Clients may pay for a portion or up to 100% of their services established by administering a State sliding fee scale based on their current income and assets.

In SFY2021, the Senior Care served 1,874 clients at an average cost of \$3,686 per client, per year. Since the minimum long-term care threshold score of (26) needed for Senior Care Act is same score required for both HCBS/FE and Nursing Facility care the cost-avoidance of the SCA can be established by comparing the cost of the State Medicaid rate per client, per year to the \$3,686 that it costs to provide clients SCA services multiplied by the number of clients served by the program, and minus the federal match rate for Medicaid. Since the State HCBS Frail Elderly Medicaid cost per client, per year is \$7,513 (minus the federal match) and the SCA average cost per client, per year is \$3,686, it can be represented that the difference per client, per year is the program cost-avoidance to Kansas taxpayer. This individual difference then can be multiplied by the total number of SCA clients served in 2021. The potential cost-avoidance by serving the beneficiaries in SCA vs HCBS in SFY2021 was \$3,827 per beneficiary or up to \$7.1 million in total annually.

The Senior Care Act is currently funded through a combination of State General Funds and federal Social Services Block Grant funds. In SFY2021, the Senior Care Act had an approved budget of \$7,015,000 and in SFY2022 the Senior Care Act has a budget of \$10,015,000