



Adult Family Care

a Pathlight program

“I like living in a home with a family. I was living in a nursing home and this is much better. I can eat when I want to, I have more freedom to do the things I like and have become a part of my community.”

~Bill, AFC member

“AFC is a wonderful program, I work in long term care and I see just how this program enhances the lives of the participants and care givers. AFC has been a valuable addition to my life, my family and Bill’s life.”

~Jared, AFC caregiver

Referrals

Anyone can make a referral for the AFC program. Referrals come from public agencies, physicians, nursing homes, and private parties.

How to Learn More

Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, and Berkshire Counties

Call

413-731-4533

Email

Info@PathlightGroup.org

About Pathlight

Adult Family Care is a Pathlight program

Pathlight is a 501(c)3 non-profit Massachusetts corporation with offices in Pittsfield, Springfield, Greenfield, Easthampton, and Northampton. It was founded in 1952 by five mothers of children with developmental disabilities.

The majority of Pathlight’s revenue comes through state agencies, including the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services and the Massachusetts Department of Medical Assistance. Pathlight also raises money from a broad network of generous donors. We gratefully accept support from individuals, businesses, and foundations.



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Promoting family care in a nurturing home environment for individuals who are unable to live independently.



Why Pathlight?

Pathlight has been a leader in the field since 1974, when it pioneered the first licensed Shared Living model in Massachusetts. Adult Family Care (AFC) is another service model that responds to the current and changing needs of the individuals we serve.

AFC reflects the belief that individuals thrive and grow to their maximum potential for independent, fulfilled lives when they have strong and ongoing personal relationships, access to community activities, and individualized care that matches their unique needs and capabilities. Adult Family Care embraces this philosophy and is an alternative to group living arrangements such as 24-hour staff homes or nursing homes.

Why choose Adult Family Care? Our services offer the quality care necessary to meet each individual's specific needs; this provides the family with support and peace of mind and the individual with an enhanced quality of life.

How Does it work?

Pathlight provides and trains caregivers to deliver care in their home. A Registered Nurse visits the home, monitors health needs, and develops a plan of care. A care manager provides case management through regular visits, ensuring quality of care and access to resources. Support is available 24/7 and overnight respite is available for caregivers.

The Program

A Medicaid/Mass Health funded program, AFC pays family and non-family caregivers for their oversight of eligible individuals with physical, cognitive, or medical disabilities. Caregivers receive a monthly, tax-exempt stipend in addition to a room-and-board payment from the individual's benefits.

Eligibility to Receive Care

Individuals age 16 or over who have (or are eligible) for Mass Health and have a medical, physical, or cognitive disability that requires daily physical assistance, cueing, prompting, and supervising to perform Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), may receive care from paid family or non-family caregivers in their home.

ADLs Considered

ADLs considered in establishing eligibility for Adult Family Care are bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring from one position to another, ambulating, and eating. Behavior management issues, such as wandering, resistance to care, and other challenging issues are also considered.



Eligibility Determination

A nurse and care manager completes a detailed inquiry and assessment of the individual's needs and capabilities. A physician completes a Patient Summary and makes a recommendation for Adult Family Care. A third-party administrator determines eligibility.

Eligibility for Caregivers

Parents who are not legal guardians of their 18 and older child, other family members, and friends may be approved through Pathlight's home-study process as caregivers. As needed, Pathlight will provide a caregiver who will care for the individual. All caregivers will receive initial and ongoing training. Spouses and parents who are legal guardians cannot receive payment through AFC. If their child is over 18 and the parents are co-guardians, one parent can receive the stipend if the other relinquishes guardianship or another person becomes the guardian.