

As of September 2024, all applicant types are placed on a waitlist and have different priorities assigned to them by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) team. There are (4) types of applicants, listed in the order of priority:

1) Long-Term Care Ombudsman Referral (LTC) Applicant:

An Ombudsman referral applicant is an institutional applicant with a medical assessment and discharge notice stating they are eligible for a lower level of care and eligible for ALW services but unable to afford assisted living. **You will need to contact the Ombudsman for a referral.** DHCS gives a higher priority on the waitlist for these types of applicants. *(Waitlist times averaging 30-60 days)*

2) Adult Protective Services (APS) Applicant:

An APS applicant is **an applicant with an open APS case.** APS may open a case for multiple reasons including what is considered self-neglect (inability to care for oneself independently, like unable to manage medications properly). You will need to contact your local APS office and speak with them about opening an APS case. DHCS gives a higher priority on the waitlist for these types of applicants. *(Waitlist times averaging 4-6 months)*

3) Institutional Applicant – Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) or Hospital Applicant:

An institutionalized applicant is a person currently residing in a skilled nursing facility, hospital, or other medical setting (assisted living or memory care is not considered a medical setting). The **applicant must be institutionalized for at least 60 consecutive days** to be considered this type of applicant. DHCS gives a higher priority on the waitlist for these types of applicants. *(Waitlist times averaging 6-12 months)*

4) Community Applicant: Community applicants are **individuals currently residing at home** – in a house, apartment, senior housing, Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE), assisted living facility, or shelter. Community applicants do not meet current reserve capacity at this time and therefore are not prioritized. **We highly recommend community applicants apply immediately to begin the waitlist period.** *(Waitlist times averaging minimum 2-3 years)*

Our agency will work with you to determine if there are ways to expedite your application during your waitlist period.



Assisted Living Waiver (ALW) Waitlist & Eligibility

We can update the application type at any time during the waitlist period. DHCS will honor the original ALW Waitlist Request submission date, even after the application has been updated to reflect a different type of applicant.

For example – F. Flinstone’s ALW Community Waitlist Request was submitted to DHCS on September 4th, 2024. The applicant’s legal representative contacted Beta ALW Team on March 15th, 2025 stating F. Flinstone has been in a Skilled Nursing Facility for at least 60 consecutive days. Once eligibility is confirmed, Beta ALW Team resubmits F. Flinstone’s Waitlist Request as a SNF Waitlist Request on March 15th, 2025. DHCS will honor his original submission date September 4th, 2024. Based on recent waitlist releases and DHCS Reserve Capacities, F. Flinstone will be waitlist released on the 10th of the following month (April 10th, 2025).

DHCS Waitlist Reserve Capacity Update:

Those applicants to be waitlist released on April 10th, 2025, are to include:

- **Reserve Capacity #1 (Institutional Transitions):** Individuals added to the waitlist on or prior to September 10, 2024.
- **Reserve Capacity #2 (APS Referrals):** Individuals added to the waitlist on or prior to October 23, 2024.
- **Reserve Capacity #3 (LTC Ombudsman Referrals):** Individuals added to the waitlist on or prior to March 17, 2025.

F. Flinstone is now considered a **Reserve Capacity #1 Applicant (Institutional Transitions – SNF or Hospital Applicant)** as his original waitlist request was submitted to DHCS on or prior to September 10th, 2024. Therefore, F. Flinstone will be waitlist released on April 10th, 2025. Once waitlist released, we will proceed with the RN Initial Assessment required to request ALW Approval.

Tip: The DHCS ALW Waitlist Releases are provided on the 10th of every month. Each DHCS release allows us to determine if and when our current waitlisted clients are to be released.

Thinking about expediting your ALW Application? Contact our team to discuss your options. Call or text (909) 990-6007 for quick answers & info!

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