

ABOUT ADVOCATES

As one of the largest service providers in Massachusetts, Advocates offers quality human services, senior support services and health care alternatives. Every day, hundreds of individuals with psychiatric illness, chemical dependency, intellectual and developmental disabilities and other life challenges rely on Advocates for professional assessment and support.

Advocates provides a full range of residential, employment and family supports to people throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts. Our outpatient mental health and substance abuse clinics, Psychiatric Emergency Services and Senior Support Services reach approximately 10,000 individuals and families each year.



OUR MISSION is to help people achieve their hopes and dreams within the fabric of their communities. We partner with people with disabilities, elders, and those with other challenges to overcome personal obstacles and societal barriers so that they can obtain and keep homes, engage in work and other meaningful activities, and sustain satisfying relationships. We work to inspire communities to create opportunities for contribution and participation by all.

If you or someone you know is interested in receiving services from Advocates, please contact:

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Individualized Home Care

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Corporate Offices

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Supported Home Care



Caring support for your family member in the comfort of home

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ABOUT *SUPPORTED* HOME CARE

The *Supported Home Care* program allows individuals 16 years and older, elders and persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, brain injuries or mental health needs to live and remain in their own home or in the home of their loved ones, thereby preventing or delaying out-of-home placement.

Through *Supported Home Care*, Advocates compensates family members or caregivers who provide live-in care to individuals who qualify. Advocates' team of nurses and social workers provides consistent, professional support services to the individual and the caregiver through nursing oversight and individualized, thoughtful care management.

Supported Home Care is a program for individuals who meet the Mass Health eligibility requirements. Our program supports individuals who, because of medical, physical, cognitive or psychiatric problems cannot safely live alone. Through our program, caregivers may be friends, live-in hired caregivers or family members, excluding a spouse or court-appointed guardian.



THE ROLE OF A CAREGIVER

The overall role of a caregiver in the *Supported Home Care* program is to maintain a safe and comfortable home for a person in need of care, and to support him or her in remaining as independent as possible.



Caregivers, with training and assistance from Advocates, assist in activities of daily living as needed. They assure that the individual in their care is well fed and clothed, lives in a sanitary and pleasant home and receives needed medical and allied health supports.

Typically, the caregiver is responsible for supervising healthcare by providing the following support:

- Reminders to take medications
- Refilling prescriptions in a timely manner
- Providing or arranging transportation to medical and other appointments
- Following the health care instructions of the physician or Advocates' agency nurse
- Obtaining prompt medical care from physician or hospital emergency room when needed
- Utilizing community resources
- Encouraging skill development
- Creating a clean and stable home environment

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

CLINICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Advocates' comprehensive clinical services and supports include:

- Initial and ongoing clinical assessments and evaluations
- Orientation for the caregiver
- Family teaching/trainings
- Care management
- Nursing and social work home visits
- Assistance with accessing other health care and community services

CAREGIVER SUPPORTS

The *Supported Home Care* program provides the following benefits to the caregiver:

- Caregiver compensation
- Relief and respite services
- Social work assistance
- Nursing support
- Information about community resources and local programs
- 24-hour emergency care
- Intake assessment

