Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP)

A Foundation for Aging in Place

Many people want to age in place at home and not in a nursing home. But, with advanced age comes illness and disabilities, nonmedical in nature, nevertheless limiting. For older adults who struggle with the most basic tasks of daily living, there’s the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP). Established in 1987 to address the non-medical needs of senior citizens who are not eligible to receive support from Medicaid and other programs. As with other NYS Area Agency on Aging programs, EISEP provides services that allow older New Yorkers the opportunity to age in place with dignity and respect.

Services Provided Under EISEP

Non-medical in-home services, case management, non-institutional respite and ancillary services are provided under EISEP and fall into two categories: Personal Care Levels 1 and 2.

**Personal Care Level 1** services include assistance with: light housekeeping, meal preparation, escort assistance, running errands and food shopping.

**Personal Care Level 2** services include assistance with: all tasks listed under Personal Care Level 1 plus bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, transferring and ambulation, feeding, eating and the self-administration of medication.

Case Management

Case management is an essential element of the EISEP program. Case managers not only assist clients, but also their families. Case management includes an in-home assessment, care plan development, arrangement of services, information and referral, client monitoring and follow up.

- Non-medical in-home services such as housekeeping, personal care, respite, case management.
- EISEP services support and supplement informal care provided by clients’ families.
- Clients are required to share the cost of services based on income.

Respite

Many seniors are cared for at home by informal caregivers – family, friends and neighbors. EISEP supports these individuals, as well by complementing and supplementing the care they provide and giving them a respite. EISEP supports the ability of caregivers to continue in this role. Non-institutional respite care is available through social adult day programs and companion/supervision services.

Ancillary Services

An individual may have unique needs that should be addressed in order for the person to remain at home safely. An example of ancillary services is providing PERS (Personal Emergency Response Systems).
Demographics

The largest age group receiving EISEP personal care services is 85+ at 42%. The 75 – 84 age bracket not far behind at 31%. The oldest old (85+), is the fastest-growing segment of America’s senior population. As life spans increase, so too will those who need EISEP services in order to remain at home in their communities.

Economic Status

EISEP is designed to serve those who are not eligible for Medicaid and to prevent or delay their spending down to Medicaid. Just under half – 40% -- of the EISEP clients have incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

Demographics

EISEP is made up mostly of case management and personal care services. A larger percentage of females (70%) receive EISEP personal care services than males (30%).

Multiple Services

The assessment process is a comprehensive review of a person’s needs and circumstances. It is often found that the service the initial inquiry was placed for is not the only service that is needed. In many instances, a package of services is needed to address the unique circumstances of an individual. Seniors receiving personal care services through EISEP have multiple needs: 59.8% receive three to five services, and an additional 13.2% receive six or more services.

Seniors Receiving Personal Care Services Have Multiple Needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>More Than 55% receive 3 to 5 services</th>
<th>An additional 15% receive 6 or More Services</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Service</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Services</td>
<td>27.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 – 5 Services</td>
<td>55.90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 or More Services</td>
<td>15.40%</td>
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Quality of Life

In SFY 2013-2014, EISEP provided in-home services to almost 11,610 customers and case management services to almost 43,786 customers. Of those seniors who benefited from EISEP services: all were frail or disabled, 40% percent were at 150% of federal poverty guidelines and were considered low-income, and almost 29% were minorities.

Impact on the Lives of Seniors

In January, Manny Rodríguez* fell, broke his shoulder and ended up moving in with his son and family on a “temporary basis” until he could be admitted to a new nursing home that was opening in a few months. In the interim, Mr. Rodríguez received Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) Level I housekeeping services and 15 hours of EISEP Level II services: case management and home delivered meals. With the support of the Area Agency on Aging’s nonmedical, community-based care he continued to live with his family for three more years.

Bob Smith* suffered a stroke during surgery that left him totally incapacitated. His wife became his primary caregiver, providing his care for two years before being referred to the office for the aging. While Mrs. Smith was committed to providing her husband’s care, she needed assistance or she was going to end up needing care. Mr. Smith was provided with 2 hours a day, five days a week of EISEP personal care Level II to help him get out of bed, bath and dress. As the toll of caregiving began to wear on Mrs. Smith, an additional hour was added to help get Mr. Smith get back into bed in the evening. With this assistance, Mr. Smith was able to remain living at home until his death 5 years later.

Myra Jones*, 90, lives alone in a senior apartment complex. Her only caregivers were her brother and sister-in-law, also senior citizens. Ms. Jones’ has multiple medical problems that impair her ability to provide her own personal care. She was at risk of needing nursing home care. Through the provision of EISEP funded personal care Level 2, she received help with personal care and household chores, case management and a personal emergency response system (PERS). EISEP long term services and supports allow her to continue living independently in her own apartment.

*Names were changed to protect client privacy.