

# Sadie Says ...

## Answers to frequently asked questions about older adult issues

**Q. Can you tell me what is the difference between Aging Waiver services and LIFE programs?**

A. Both the Aging Waiver and LIFE (Living Independence For the Elderly) programs are Home and Community Based Waiver services offered to Pennsylvanians.

The main difference between the two programs is that the LIFE program is health/medically based.

For LIFE programs you must be at least 55 years of age, whereas Aging Waiver begins at the age of 60.

Participants in both programs must be clinically eligible for nursing facility care and must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. For LIFE programs, residence is zip code specific, whereas Aging Waiver programs service their designate county.

Both programs require individuals to meet the financial requirements as determined by the local County Assistance Office, but LIFE offers the option to private pay for services if over income/assets.

Residents must be able to be safely served in

the community as determined by the respective agency.

The LIFE programs are health solutions based programs. They serve the senior populations with increasing medical needs. LIFE programs arrange full health and social service needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The program operates within a clinical and therapeutic home-care based model. LIFE is staffed by physicians, nurses, nurses aids, occupational and physical therapists and medical social workers.

For more information on Aging Waiver services in Lycoming/Clinton counties, contact STEP/Office of Aging at 570-323-3096 or contact your local Area Agency on Aging.

To learn more about the local LIFE program call 570-601-8423.

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*Sadie Says ... is brought to you by the Lycoming County Health Improvement Coalition's Safe Communities Task Force, whose members include AAA North Penn, AARP, Area Agency on Aging and regional transportation and highway safety advocates.*