

OASIS · AT A GLANCE

Can Michigan pay you to care for your adult child?

Yes, once they turn eighteen. Home Help is a Medicaid State Plan benefit with no waiting list, currently paying \$17.13 an hour, and most families find out about it years later than they should have.

PILLARS: WHERE · HOW | COMPANION TO BLOG POST B149 | 2-PAGE BRIEF

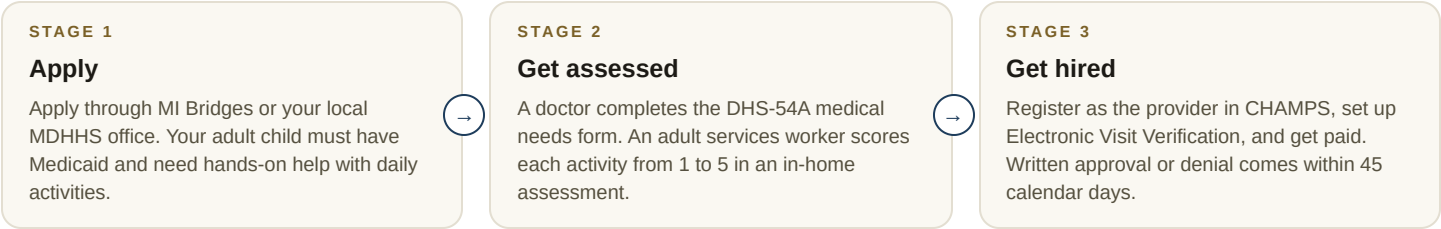
\$17.13

PER HOUR, STATEWIDE

Michigan's individual provider rate effective January 1, 2026.

How you get paid

APPLY, ASSESS, ENROLL



The application, start to first payment

MI BRIDGES TO CHAMPS

The sequence, in the order it actually happens

Step three is where families stall for months, because physicians do not volunteer the form. Print it, fill in your own notes, and hand it to the doctor to review and sign.

First	Confirm active Medicaid Home Help requires it. Adults with disabilities frequently qualify on their own income after 18.
Second	Apply for Home Help Through MI Bridges, or by contacting your local MDHHS office and asking for adult services.
Third	DHS-54A signed The medical needs form, completed by a physician or approved medical professional. Ask for two originals.
Fourth	In-home assessment Each activity scored 1 to 5. Payment is authorized only for needs assessed at level 3 or greater.
45 days	Written determination Your adult services worker must notify you in writing within 45 calendar days, approved or denied.
Then	CHAMPS and EVV Enroll as a provider, set up Electronic Visit Verification, and expect reassessment every 6 months.

None

Waiting list for Home Help
It is a Medicaid State Plan personal care benefit, not a waiver. Qualify and you are entitled to it.

18

The age that changes everything
A parent cannot be paid for a minor child. At 18 you become an eligible paid provider.

45

Calendar days to a decision
In writing. Put that date on your calendar the day you apply.

FOUR YEARS OF UNPAID WORK SHE COULD HAVE BEEN PAID FOR

“
Renee had been doing every transfer, every shower, and every medication pass for her son since he turned eighteen. She learned about Home Help at a support group when he was twenty-two. Nobody at the hospital, the school, or the CMH had ever mentioned it.
IT IS NOT A SECRET. IT IS JUST NEVER MENTIONED.

THE TAKEAWAY

Most of the good services live inside capped waivers with waiting lists. Home Help is a State Plan entitlement with no slot to wait for. Families spend years on a waiver list without applying for the benefit that was available the whole time.

TURN THE PAGE

What to bring to the assessment, how the scoring actually works, and the parts nobody warns you about.

The assessment decides your hours

PREPARE FOR IT LIKE A HEARING

ELIGIBILITY

Who can and cannot be paid

☐ Parents of an adult child 18 or older: yes

☐ Parents of a minor child: no

☐ Spouses: no, but another person can be hired

☐ Siblings, grandchildren, nieces, nephews: yes

☐ Friends and neighbors: yes

BRING

What to have at the assessment

☐ Medicaid ID and proof of current coverage

☐ Completed and signed DHS-54A medical needs form

☐ Medication list with prescribers and dosing

☐ A written day-in-the-life description of assistance

☐ A calendar showing hours you already provide

SCORE

How the hours get decided

☐ Each activity scored 1 independent to 5 dependent

☐ Payment authorized only at level 3 or greater

☐ Level 3 means hands-on assistance is required

☐ Shopping 5 hours, housework 6, laundry 7, meals 25

☐ Cases above roughly 180 hours a month get extra review

KNOW

The parts nobody warns you about

☐ Home Help income is taxable

☐ It can interact with your own benefits and taxes

☐ Reassessment with a home visit every 6 months

☐ EVV logs every shift, it is not optional

☐ This is a floor, not a plan. You still need the waiver

BRING ONE PAGE, NOT A BINDER

The hard ordinary day sheet

01

The activity

Bathing, toileting, dressing, eating, transfers, medication.

02

The assistance

Cueing, hands-on, or two-person, for each one.

03

The frequency

How many times a day, and how many days a week.

04

The proof

A recent incident with a date that shows why.

YOUR MOVE

From application to first payment

1

Confirm Medicaid

Active coverage for your adult child first.

2

Apply

MI Bridges or your local MDHHS office.

3

Get the DHS-54A

Pre-filled with your notes, physician signed.

4

Prepare the assessment

Write the hard ordinary day, activity by activity.

5

Enroll and log

CHAMPS, then Electronic Visit Verification.

Describe the hardest ordinary day, not the best one. The assessor is filling in numbered boxes, and the score is what pays.

SOURCES

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Adult Services Manual ASM 138, County Rates, ASB 2026-002, effective January 1, 2026. Individual provider rate \$17.13 per hour.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Adult Services Manual ASM 120, Home Help Comprehensive Assessment, ASB 2026-007, effective July 1, 2026.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Home Help Program Client Handbook, MDHHS Pub-1733.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Medical Needs form DHS-0054-a.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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