

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT ASSISTED LIVING COSTS

Finding the best assisted living facility for your senior loved one's needs and how to pay for it can be challenging. These questions will help you navigate the financial landscape.

1. Are there any special fees when entering assisted living?

Assisted living facilities often assess one-time charges up front. Ask if there are entrance fees (also called “move-in” fees), administrative, or community fees. Some residences require “buy in,” so be sure to understand if you’ll be renting or purchasing real estate.

2. What affects my monthly costs?

Assisted living costs vary widely depending on a home’s square footage and features, the city where it’s located, services included, level of care needs, and whether housing is individual or shared. The facility should be transparent about your total monthly costs.

3. Are there outside sources of financial support I can reach out to?

Many people receive benefits from Medicare, Medicaid, the Veteran’s Administration, and personal insurance. Marquis will collaborate with you to help you understand your options.

4. Am I missing any hidden charges?

Some assisted living communities include room and board in their “base package,” but not the activities of daily living, such as eating, dressing, and bathing. If your loved one requires additional care, even for a short period, costs may skyrocket. You may not be notified of the increased costs until you receive the bill. These omissions will impact your bottom line.

Request detailed rate sheets that explain all charges.

5. What if my loved one needs additional care in the future?

Ask if the facility offers **multiple levels of care**, allowing your senior parent or loved one to move from assisted living to long term care or post hospital care with ease. They should provide a clear notification process about cost increases so there are no surprises if care needs change.