

PLANNING FOR LONG-TERM CARE

The average cost of nursing home care in Maine is \$6,255 per month, as of 2006. One year of nursing home care will cost a Maine couple over \$75,000, annually.

WHO PAYS FOR NURSING CARE HOME COSTS?

- Patients pay for their own care 50.7%
- Medicaid 41.5%
- Medicare 1.4%
- Private insurance 0.9%
- Other govt. programs 5.5%

QUALIFYING FOR MEDICAID COVERAGE

- Applicant must spend available income on nursing care.
- Stay-at-home spouse (community spouse) allowed to keep their own income, plus enough of spouse's income to bring their income to \$1,604 per month (possibly more, if there are excess shelter expenses).
- Applicant may keep just \$10,000 in assets.
- Community spouse may keep \$99,210 in assets.
- Some assets, including home, are excluded.

TRANSFERRING ASSETS TO QUALIFY FOR MEDICAID

- Transfer penalty for transfers made within five years of application (referred to as "look-back period").
- Transfers to spouse are not counted.
- Penalty calculated by dividing the total amount transferred by the average monthly cost of care.