

Financial Planning

How Much Does Senior Living Cost?

Because we provide several senior living options, the average cost can vary depending on factors like community location, apartment-style, amenities, and level of care.

But the good news is that whether you want to find an independent living community that handles all the household chores, an assisted living community where you can have a little extra help with personal grooming and managing medication, or a dementia care community where your family member has a daily opportunity to thrive, we have a variety of options at a variety of price points.

The Average Cost of Senior Living

If you're new to the world of senior living, one of the first questions you probably want answered is, "How much does it cost?" While it's wise to do your research and get a general idea for how much you can expect to pay for senior living, it's also a hard question to answer without digging into your individual circumstances.

There are several variables that go into the final price. Things like the city or region you choose, whether you have a large and private apartment or a companion suite with a roommate and how much care you need on a daily basis, all play a role in the total cost.

What Are You Paying Now?

If you added up the cost of all your monthly expenses, what would the total be?

Many seniors are surprised to discover that they're already paying pretty close to what they'd pay if they lived in a senior living community. And as it is, they don't even have access to the kinds of amenities and services that are included in the price of community life!

Start With Your Monthly Expenses

Living at home requires you to pay separate bills for things like the mortgage, utilities, property taxes, and homeowner's insurance. You also have to budget for things like groceries, healthcare costs, entertainment, and travel expenses.

Now imagine wrapping all of those costs into a single monthly payment. That's what happens when you live in our senior living community. Most of your ordinary expenses are included in your monthly fee, and you get to enjoy things like housekeeping and laundry services, educational workshops, interesting classes, happy hours and ice cream socials, and fun-filled excursions with people who like the same things you do.

And we haven't even touched on the on-site amenities like swimming pools, gardens, beauty and barber shops, transportation services, and more. Some of our communities even have their own general stores, ice cream parlors, fishing ponds, and golf courses near campus.

So before you write off senior living communities because you think they're too expensive, add up your monthly expenses and see how that total compares to the cost of communities in your area. You may be surprised to learn that senior living may be more affordable than you think.

Options for Different Budgets

We know that the cost of senior living may come as a surprise to some people, but what if you could raise or lower that price based on your individual circumstances?

The good news is that you can.

If you want to adjust the total cost of senior living, you can ask yourself questions like:

- Do I really want a private, two-bedroom apartment, or would I rather pay less for a companion suite and live with a roommate?
- Is it a priority for me to live in a trendy, desirable city, or would I be just as happy in a more rural or suburban town?
- Have I always dreamed about living on a golf course, or am I okay with choosing a community that has a golf course within driving distance?

The cost also varies depending on the type of care you need. If you need more specialized care like memory care, you can probably expect to pay more than someone who is moving into an independent living community where there are convenience services, but no care is provided.

Personalized Service System

If you're looking into one of MBK's assisted living or memory care communities, our personalized service system is one of the many ways that can affect your costs. Because we provide custom care that is designed to meet your specific needs, you only have to pay for the services you need. As your needs decrease or increase, your plan and its cost do too. This gives you the chance to live the life you want while only paying for the care you need.

How Can I Pay for Senior Living?

If you know you want to move into a senior living community, but you aren't sure how to pay for it, then you've come to the right place. The good news is that there are probably more options for how to pay for senior care than you ever realized. From personal savings and benefit programs to third-party companies who can help you navigate the financial waters, affording your retirement dream may not be as challenging as you thought.

Helpful Financial Resources

After learning about all the wonderful benefits of living in a senior living community, you've decided it's time to take the leap. You're ready to start packing your bags, but there's still one question left to answer: how are you going to pay for it? Fortunately, you have several options to consider as you figure out how to pay for senior living care—and you don't have to be a millionaire to make the move to senior living.

Even if you don't have a bundle of cash sitting in the bank collecting dust, you have alternatives. From private funds to insurance and government programs, there are probably more ways to cover the cost of senior living than you may realize.

Options for Financial Assistance

If you have enough money to pay for senior living out-of-pocket, that's great news. But even if you don't, here are a few other options to consider.

Long-Term Care Insurance (LTCI)

Depending on your specific policy and your care needs, long-term care insurance can be a great resource for paying for specific types of senior living care. But not all LTCI policies are

created equal, so be sure to read the fine print. Policies vary widely with what they will cover and won't cover, which is why it's important to consult with your insurance provider or a financial advisor to make sure you know exactly how your policy works.

Life Insurance

If you or your loved one has an existing life insurance policy, you may be able to convert an in-force policy to a pre-funded account to help pay for senior care. This financial option is especially helpful for seniors because all health conditions are accepted, there are no waiting periods, no care limits, no costs to apply, no requirement to be terminally ill, and no premium payments or fees.

A long-term benefit plan converts an in-force life insurance policy into a pre-funded account that can be used to immediately make tax-free payments to a senior living community. You can convert a universal, whole, term, or group policy and use it for assisted living, dementia care, skilled nursing, hospice, or private-duty home health.

According to Life Care Funding, there are no application fees and no obligation to apply. Once the policy is converted, the enrollee is no longer responsible for life insurance premium payments, and the policy is no longer considered an asset that will count against future Medicaid eligibility.

(Source: lifecarefunding.com)

Bridge Loans

The need for senior living can be unexpected and sudden due to medical emergencies or the realization that living at home is no longer safe. Many senior financial services will provide a bridge loan to help cover the costs during the transition. Typically, the condition of the loan states that the short-term loan will need to be repaid once the funds are available, like, for example, through the sale of a house.

If you want to use a line of credit to cover the cost of senior living, you can explore your options with a financial company that specializes in working with seniors. Their services are designed to help seniors move into the community of their choice or supplement their move while waiting on funds from a home sale or other benefits. Because they offer low monthly payments, this is an option to consider if you need to move to a community quickly and easily.

Veterans Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides the VA Aid and Attendance Pension to eligible wartime veterans and their surviving spouses, which can offset the price of long-term care and/or assisted living by a significant amount.

(Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

Medicare

Depending on what level of care you're interested in, you may be able to cover the cost through Medicare.

Paying Out of Pocket

Whether you have money from investments, retirement accounts, or inheritances, having private funds to cover the cost of senior living can be very helpful as you make decisions about your future. You could also consider the option of selling your home to help you fund your move to senior living.