

# Level of Care Assessment Representative

Beginning July 1, 2025, the Level of Care Assessment Representative (LCAR) will serve as a point of entry for individuals seeking long-term services and supports, whether in the home, community or a nursing facility. The State’s LCAR vendor is Maximus. For qualifying populations, the LCAR will provide:

- Level of Care (LOC) assessments and reassessments
- LOC determination (outcome) recommendations and redeterminations
- Intake counseling
- Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)

A functional or “nursing facility” Level of Care assessment is required as part of the eligibility process for Medicaid waivers and long-term care to ensure individuals receive the appropriate services to meet their needs. This includes the required Preadmission Screening and Resident Review for individuals seeking nursing facility admission.

LCAR already conducts NFLOC and PASRR for individuals seeking to reside or already residing in a nursing facility.

LCAR assessments will apply to the following Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waivers:

- PathWays Waiver
- Health and Wellness (H&W) Waiver
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Waiver
- The transition to LCAR will not impact individuals seeking services requiring ICF/IID level of care.

## What will be different after July 1, 2025?

	Current State	After July 1, 2025
Who’s doing the assessment?	<p>Waiver applicants’ LOC are assessed by an Area Agency on Aging (AAA).</p> <p>Medicaid-eligible individuals seeking nursing facility admission are assessed by hospitals, nursing facilities, and AAAs as part of the PASRR process, with results submitted to the LCAR for determination recommendations.</p>	<p>Waiver applicants’ LOC will be assessed by Maximus.</p> <p>Through December 2025, individuals seeking nursing facility admission will continue to be assessed by hospitals and nursing facilities, with results submitted to the LCAR for determination recommendations.</p> <p>PathWays members will be assessed by their MCEs when seeking LTSS (both HCBS Waiver and nursing facility admission), and MCEs will submit LOC assessment results to the LCAR for determination recommendations.</p>
What tools will be used?	<p>Currently, there is a short-form and long-form LOC assessment that entities such as AAAs, NFs, and Hospitals can submit through the AssessmentPro platform to the LCAR for LOC determination recommendations.</p>	<p>Individuals and Non-LCAR entities (e.g., AAAs) will be able to request LOC assessments to be conducted by the LCAR. LCAR evaluators will utilize an assessment tool, giving consideration to an applicant’s physical, functional and cognitive issues, to determine if the applicant is eligible for nursing facility admission or home and</p>

		<p>community-based services. If individuals do not meet LOC, the LCAR will refer them to AAAs for alternative services or resources, as available.</p> <p>For existing PathWays members, MCEs will be able to submit the results of their equivalent Comprehensive Health Assessment Tool (CHAT) to the LCAR for LOC determination recommendations.</p>
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*What are FSSA’s goals for the LCAR services?*

- Timely and accurate LOC determinations and handoffs
- Utilization of a strengths-based, person-centered approach
- Assurance of smooth transitions

*How will FSSA ensure the LCAR vendor is meeting program goals?*

- Maximus will operate a member helpline Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET and will prioritize first call resolution.
- LOC assessments within seven days and LOC recommendations within 11 days.
- Maximus will have performance-related payments based on the PASRR and NFLOC assessment and recommendation rates, intake counseling performance standards, and helpline performance metrics.

General timeline

- **April 2024:** New contract begins that continues current PASRR duties
- **May 2024 – May 2025:** Intensive readiness review, systems testing, transition planning and staff training
- **Spring 2025:** Community-facing communications begin
- **July 1, 2025:** Go-live for waiver LOC
- **July 2025 – December 2025:** Intensive post go-live monitoring

Future communications:

- Website updates (FAQs, training materials, etc.)
- Webinars and trainings

New Pediatric Eligibility tool

As announced in early 2024, FSSA is implementing new Level of Care Pediatric Eligibility tools beginning July 1, 2025. The LCAR will utilize additional tools from the evidence-based, nationally recognized interRAI suite of assessments for children. The new tools to be implemented are Early Years (0-4 years) and PEDS HC (5-18 years) to address their respective needs. These tools are similar to the adult interRAI HC currently in use and will ensure that Level of Care assessments are accurate and appropriate for all age groups.