

Comparison Chart- Between Companion Care and Monitored in Home Caregiving (MIHC) For the ROW and NOW

FAQs	Companion Care	MIHC
What is the purpose of the program?	Companion care services are provided in the participant’s home or apartment, and assists the participant to achieve and/or maintain the outcomes of increased independence, productivity, and inclusion in the community.	Monitored In-Home Caregiving (MIHC) services are provided by a principal caregiver to a participant who lives in a private unlicensed residence to achieve and/or maintain personal preferences, wellbeing and goals in a supportive home environment.
What are Provider Requirements?	Providers must be licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health as a home and community-based services provider, and meet the module-specific requirements for Personal Care Attendant. LAC 48:1. Chapter 50 who contract with the companion	Providers must be licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health as a home and community-based services provider, and meet the module-specific requirements for Monitored In-Home Caregiving. LAC 48:1. Chapter 50 who contract with principal caregivers and employ professional staff including a registered nurse and a care manager, to support principal caregivers. Agency makes monthly visits.
Who would benefit from these services?	These services are designed for individuals who live independently and <u>can manage their own household with limited supports.</u> <u>The recipient benefits by not having a “sitter” but a roommate type companion who helps meet needs but also allows for privacy and independence.</u>	The principal caregiver and the participant live together and benefit from the services of the professional staff employed by the HCBS provider who provides oversight, support and monitoring of the principal caregiver through on-site visits, training, and daily, secure web-based electronic information exchange.
Who qualifies to be a companion/MIHC caregiver?	The companion must be at least 18 years of age, live with the participant as a roommate, and provide services in the participant’s home or in the community. Services may not be provided by a family member who is the participant’s spouse or legal guardian, however, services may be provided by a family member.	The principal caregiver must be at least 18 years of age and live with the participant. <u>CAN BE</u> a relative or a representative and must live in the home and be available 24 hours a day. Caregiver can be a spouse. Caregiver responsible for individual 24/7.

	Companion responsible 24/7 by phone.	
Is the companion/MIHC caregiver an employee of the HCBS provider?	No, the companion is contracted by a licensed HCBS provider and lives with the participant as a roommate	No, the principal caregiver is contracted by the licensed HCBS provider and lives with the participant
How is the companion/MIHC caregiver compensated?	The HCBS provider completes a written agreement with the Companion for compensation of services at a daily, per diem rate.	The MIHC provider provides a daily stipend to the principal caregiver. The stipend is reportable, but not taxable.
What is the role of the companion/MIHC caregiver?	<p>The companion assists with all of the activities of daily living as indicated and needed in the participant’s POC. Services include community integration and coordination of transportation services, including medical appointments.</p> <p>The companion is responsible for participating in and abiding by the POC; maintaining records in accordance with State and provider requirements.</p> <p>The companion is responsible for 24 hour “crisis” services and must be available by phone 24 hours daily when not with the participant.</p>	<p>The principal caregiver provides necessary care and supports with supervision or assistance to the participant in performing activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living as outlined in the participant’s POC; The principal caregiver receives support and oversight through MIHC supervision to assure the health and welfare of the participant; and the principal caregiver is provided education and training with health related tasks such as medical tasks, medication administration and therapies. Notes are done electronically.</p> <p>The principal caregiver supervises or assists the participant outside of the home with activities as identified on the POC including health maintenance (MD visits).</p>
Are back-up staff provided?	<p>The provider agency must provide relief staff for scheduled and unscheduled absences, available for up to 360 hours (15 days) as authorized by the POC. Relief staff for scheduled and unscheduled absences is included in the provider agency’s rate.</p> <p>***Formal Back Up Staff provided</p>	<p>The MIHC provider can credential an alternate caregiver as an option, based on the preference of the participant and caregiver.</p> <p>The required MIHC back-up caregiving plan includes designated natural support in the event that the principal caregiver is unable to provide care at any time.</p> <p>****Informal Backup Caregiver identified</p>
How is the service monitored?	The provider will contact the Companion at a minimum once per week, or more often as specified in the participant’s Plan of Care.	The MIHC provider must make a minimum of one home visit per month as well as monitor the secure web-based daily electronic progress

		notes submitted by the principal caregiver.
Is Support Coordination required?	Required to assist with planning and accessing services.	Required to assist with planning and accessing services.
How do you break down the rates for each service?	In Companion Care everyone uses the same rate and service code in both waivers.	<p>The MIHC Services are based on participant's assessed acuity level within waiver</p> <p>ROW: Level 1: ICAP levels1 & 2 Level 2: ICAP levels3 & 4</p> <hr/> <p>NOW: Level 1: SIS level 1, 2, & 3 Level 2: SIS levels 4, 5, & 6</p>