

Enhanced Services Facilities (ESFs): A New Residential Setting Type

What is an ESF?

An Enhanced Services Facility (ESF) is a small, community-based residential setting for up to 16 individuals who have complex personal care and behavioral health needs. These individuals require additional support and services from trained caregivers and professional staff, but do not require the level of care found in an institutional setting or mental health treatment facility. Additionally, ESFs receive funding through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as a community-based residential setting, with state compliance monitoring and oversight.

Is an ESF an Institution, Mental Health Facility, or Treatment Center?

ESFs are not an institution, mental health or a treatment facility. ESFs are not secured and do not have any of the characteristics of an institutional setting. ESFs provide behavior support services, but do not provide any type of mental health or substance abuse treatment. If an individual needs this type of treatment or service, it is available in the community and can be accessed through the individual's medical coverage.

ESFs are part of an array of setting types available to individuals who receive assistance with personal care services through the Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (AL TSA). Personal care services include assistance with daily living tasks such as bathing, mobility, personal hygiene, eating and medication assistance. Within Washington state, individuals can receive care in a variety of settings, including:

- An individual's own home
- An Assisted Living Facility with and without intermittent nursing services
- An Adult Family Home
- An Enhanced Services Facility
- A Skilled Nursing Facility

An individual in an ESF typically receives more intensive services than what are available in an Adult Family Home or Assisted Living Facility as the staffing levels are higher. However, an individual in an ESF does not receive the intensity of medical services provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility. All individuals served by AL TSA have a choice of setting type and we honor their choices, goals and preferences for how they choose to live and interact with their community.

What are the characteristics of an ESF client?

Individuals who reside at an ESF are typically moving to an ESF from either a state hospital or a local psychiatric hospital, and their behavior support needs are such that they require more monitoring and oversight. Once the hospital determines the individual is stable and ready to transition back to the community, ALTSA begins working with the individual, the hospital, and the local behavioral health or managed care organization to develop a transition plan and assist the individual with the types of settings and providers they may select from.

As residents in an ESF, individuals may choose to integrate into the local community to pursue their interests, as shown in the following video of an ESF resident: <https://youtu.be/1oyBgZxMfC0>

Where are ESFs located?

ESFs are a type of residential setting and, as such, are located within residential communities and neighborhoods. There are four ESFs currently licensed and operating within the state, each of which is in a residential community:

- Upriver Place ESF is an 8-bed facility in the Spokane Valley
- Orchards Highlands ESF is a 12-bed facility in Vancouver
- Unified Residential ESF is a 16-bed facility in the Spokane Valley
- Everett ESF is a 16-bed facility in Everett

What are some of the Building Code requirements for an ESF?

WAC 388-107-0070 provides some of the basic building code requirements, while noting the similarities to other residential setting types:

- (1) The department of health construction review services will review the following: general, code, program submittal and minimum requirements to ensure that the facility is in compliance with enhanced services facility physical plant basic requirements.
- (2) The enhanced service facility building occupancy type will be consistent with resident admission practices and state adopted building codes for licensed (1) nursing homes, (2) assisted living facilities or (3) adult family homes. This determination will be based on the following categories:
 - (a) Enhanced service facility category 1: Admit resident(s) physically or cognitively incapable of self-preservation (enhanced services facility-nursing home type);
 - (b) Enhanced service facility category 2: Admit resident(s) capable of self-preservation with physical assistance from another person (enhanced services facility-assisted living type); or
 - (c) Enhanced service facility category 3: Admit no more than six resident(s) capable of evacuating the facility within five minutes (enhanced services facility-adult family home type).