

What Does It Cost?

On average, assisted living facilities across the United States cost around \$3,000 a month or \$36,000 a year. In the Midwest, costs range from \$2,500 to \$5,000 a month, depending on the level of care required, location and size of the apartment. The fees are higher when special services and dementia care is added.

RidgeStone's basic monthly fee ranges from \$2,500 to \$3,725. The total fee may include additional services based on a resident's unique individual assessment of needs.

In Wisconsin, many of the assisted living facilities are private pay meaning the resident or the resident's family covers the cost of living with their personal assets. Some residents pay with the help of long-term care insurance if they had the foresight to purchase it before they needed it. Assisted living communities take some Medicaid supported residents.

While assisted living is expensive, it is usually less expensive than a nursing home, which can average \$70,000 a year for a semi-private room (or \$192 daily; \$5,800 monthly).

Cost Calculator

When considering the cost of assisted living, families should truly compare what it costs to stay at home versus the monthly fees at an assisted living facility. "Sticker shock" is common and can sometimes discourage one from even exploring assisted living.

Often times families are just comparing the basic rent/mortgage and taxes they might be paying monthly on the house instead of all the other small monthly costs that living at home can occur.

Here are some items to consider; costs for these items generally are included in the monthly base fee at an assisted living community:

- Rent/Mortgage
- Condo/Association Fees
- Property taxes
- Groceries/take out/dining out
- Recreational and social activities
- Electricity
- Gas
- Water/sewer
- Maintenance (furnace, washer/dryer repair, etc...)
- Transportation (car, maintenance & gas)
- 24/7 Security system & supervision
- Basic cable TV
- Housekeeping/cleaning supplies
- Laundry
- Lawn care/snow removal
- Garbage removal
- Licensed nurse available for health care needs
- Assistance with ADL's (Activities of daily Living)
- Health club/exercise classes

If you decide to stay home and need care, you need to consider the additional cost of bringing in that care. A cost for a live-in caregiver can range from \$150 to \$230 a day or \$4,500 - \$6,900 a month.

Increased socialization, freedom from the demands of maintaining a home, and increased opportunities for both mental and physical activity can vastly improve quality of life. And peace of mind is priceless.