BETA'S ALW TEAM, ALWBETA.COM

Assisted Living Waiver in Kern County: 2026 fact sheet

Who qualifies

Six things all have to be true. No single diagnosis or income figure decides it; the state's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) decides after a nurse assessment.

1. Age 21 or older.
2. Full-scope Medi-Cal with no monthly share of cost.
3. Care needs at the level a nursing home gives, as a nurse assesses them.
4. Able to live safely in an assisted-living home, within its staff and licence.
5. Willing to live in a county where the ALW operates; Kern County is one of the fifteen.
6. Would rather live in assisted living or qualifying public subsidized housing than in a nursing home.

The six requirements, in everyday terms (alwbeta.com/eligibility).

What the home may charge in 2026

Item	2026 figure
SSI/SSP for a person in a licensed home (non-medical out-of-home care)	$1,626.07 a month
The most the home may charge: $706.07 room and board plus up to $738.00 care and supervision	$1,444.07 a month
What the resident keeps for personal needs	at least $182.00 a month
What Medi-Cal pays the home for care, by tier	$95.69 to $270.80 a day

A home may charge an SSI/SSP resident up to 10% of the room-and-board portion more for a private room. If the person has income besides SSI/SSP, the home may charge $20 more a month if the admission agreement says so. **Costs and room and board** (alwbeta.com/costs) has every figure with its source.

Participating homes

49 homes in Kern County hold an open licence and take the waiver (36 RCFEs and 13 ARFs), on the DHCS list of participating facilities checked September 18, 2026 against the CDSS licence file of October 17, 2026. A listing is not an open bed, and each home decides its own admissions. **Homes on the state's ALW list in Kern County** (alwbeta.com/facilities/kern).

Care coordination agencies

DHCS lists 14 care coordination agencies for Kern County (list read October 20, 2026). Any agency on this list without a DHCS restriction note can put you on the waitlist; you choose, and you can change later. Beta is one of them. **Every agency with its phone number** (alwbeta.com/care-coordination-agencies/kern).

- A-Biz Health Systems, (818) 654-6874
- AARP Care Coordination Agency, (805) 695-3200
- All Hours Adult Care, (844) 657-4748
- Beta Hospice Care, (747) 293-5777
- Calstro Hospice, (909) 929-7312
- Central Coast Healthcare Services, (818) 852-7260
- I Care Hospice, (818) 238-9188
- Libertana Home Health Care, (818) 902-5000
- Libertana Home Health of Fresno, (800) 750-1444
- Oyuna Hospice, (559) 374-2726
- Star Nursing, (916) 542-1445
- True Care Home Health, (888) 944-6248
- Vigilans Home Health Services, (909) 748-7980
- Virtue Home Care, (888) 802-2227

Where the waitlist stands

DHCS stopped taking ALW applications directly on September 3, 2024, when the program reached its maximum capacity; every new applicant joins the waitlist through an agency, and DHCS releases openings in priority order: people with at least 60 days in a nursing facility or other institution first, then Adult Protective Services referrals, then Long-Term Care Ombudsman referrals, then everyone else. DHCS's latest published file shows 15,910 people waiting and 14,831 enrolled statewide in March 2026; at a Senate hearing on August 12, 2026 DHCS said 17,886 were waiting and gave average waits of 11 to 12 months from an institution and 3 to 4 months with an APS or Ombudsman referral. DHCS does not publish a count by county. **Is the ALW accepting applications?** (alwbeta.com/waitlist/status)

How to apply

1. Find out whether the ALW may fit: **the fit check** (alwbeta.com/fit-check) asks the six questions and saves nothing.
2. Choose a care coordination agency from the DHCS list. Beta is one of them.
3. Ask to be added to the state's waitlist. The agency screens the request within seven calendar days and confirms it in writing within three more.
4. Wait, and stay ready: keep Medi-Cal active and your contact details current.

All ten steps are on **the application process page** (alwbeta.com/application-process). Beta's ALW team: **(747) 293-5777**, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Spanish available; **apply online** (alwbeta.com/apply).

Figures as of the dates shown. Sources: **DHCS, Assisted Living Waiver** (dhcs.ca.gov/services/long-term-care-alternatives-home-and-community-based-service-options/assisted-living-waiver); **DHCS list of participating facilities** (dhcs.ca.gov/services/long-term-care-alternatives-home-and-community-based-service-options/assisted-living-waiver-program-participating-facilities); **DHCS list of care coordination agencies** (dhcs.ca.gov/services/long-term-care-alternatives-home-and-community-based-service-options/participating-care-coordination-agencies); CDSS PIN 25-19-CCLD; DHCS ALW Policy Letter 24-002; California Senate Budget Subcommittee 3 hearing, August 12, 2026. Beta ALW Care Coordination is a DBA of Beta Hospice Care Inc. This sheet does not rank homes or agencies and is not an eligibility decision.

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