



Guide to Medicaid Waiver Programs

Dear Caregiver,

This guide will help you learn more about Medicaid Waiver programs. You can use this guide to help you decide if your child can get help from a Medicaid Waiver Program.

If you have questions, please ask you care team. We are here to help!

Sincerely,
Children's Health

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Waiver Programs

What is a Medicaid Waiver program?

- A waiver program lets a state use money from Medicaid to give some long-term home and community-based services for children and adults with a disability (your child may have 1 or more).
- If your child is eligible, they can get the services they need in their own homes or other community settings.
- Most waiver programs are based on your child's disability and their income (not the family's income).
- If your child gets services from a waiver program, they also get Medicaid health insurance.

Why are they called waivers?

- They are called "waivers" because certain Medicaid rules are waived (those rules are put aside).
- In Texas, there are many waiver programs run by The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).

What do I need to know?

- Sign-up for the waiver programs ASAP (as soon as possible).
 - Some waiver programs have wait times of over 15 years.
 - Even if you are not sure your child will ever need these services, it is better to have these waiver programs as choices if your child needs them in the future.
- Sign-up for as many waiver programs (interest lists) that meet your child's needs.
 - They can be on many interest lists, but they can only be a part of 1 waiver program at a time,
 - If you apply in person or on the phone, always get the names of the people you speak to and any other details they give you when you sign up. Keep it with your records.
 - You should get a letter to confirm your child has been put on a waiver program interest list.
- The State may call you or send you a letter about the waiver programs you signed your child up for.
 - It is important you always answer, or your child's name may be taken off the lists.
- Call the waiver program if you change your address or phone number.

Waiver Programs

- Call at least 1 time per year to make sure that your child's name is still on the list.
 - Many parents use their child's birthday as a date to call so they do not forget.
 - Ask where your child is on the interest list.
 - Make sure that your contact information (name, address, telephone number) is still right.

Home and Community-based Services (HCS)

What is Home and Community-based Services (HCS)?

- HCS offers services and support to people with an intellectual disability (ID) or related condition (other health issues)
 - Related conditions:
 - A disability (other than an ID) that starts before the age of 22 and will likely continue.
 - Must cause major limits with the person being able to function and cause limits like those of an ID.
 - Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Seizure Disorder and Spina Bifida are types of **related conditions**.
 - HCS offers services and support so that people can live at home with their family, in their own home or in a community setting like a small group home.

How do I learn more about the HCS Waiver Program?

- Visit the following websites:
 - <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/home-community-based-services-hcs>
 - <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/texas-medicaid-waiver-programs-for-children-with-disabilities>

How do I get my child on the HCS interest list?

- Contact your county's Local Intellectual and Development Disability Authority (LIDDA). Find the LIDDA that serves your area by going to <https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/la.cfm>.

Medically Dependent Children's Program (MDCP)

What is the Medically Dependent Children's Program (MDCP)?

- MDCP offers services to families caring for medically dependent children and young adults under the age of 21.
- MDCP serves as a different option than a nursing home.

How do I learn more about MDCP?

- Visit the following websites:
 - <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/medically-dependent-children-program-mdcp>
 - <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/texas-medicaid-waiver-programs-for-children-with-disabilities>

How do I get my child on the MDCP interest list?

- Call the Texas Health and Human Services Commission at 1-877-438-5658

What do I need to know?

- Some children who are medically fragile (in a critical state of health) may be able to avoid the MDCP "interest list" through the Money Follows the Person (MFP) process
- When you call the MDCP interest list, ask to speak with the person who is an expert on Money Follows the Person.



Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)

What is Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)?

- CLASS offers home-and community-based services to people with intellectual disabilities or **related conditions** who meet additional criteria.
 - A **related condition** is a disability, other than an intellectual disability, that starts before the age of 22 and that affects a person's ability to function in daily life.

How do I learn more about the CLASS Program?

- Visit the following websites:
 - <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/community-living-assistance-support-services-class>
 - <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/texas-medicaid-waiver-programs-for-children-with-disabilities>

How do I get my child on the CLASS interest list?

- Call the Texas Health and Human Services Commission at 1-877-438-5658



Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)

What is Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disability (DBMD)?

- Deaf-Blind with Multiple (many) Disabilities (DBMD) offers home and community-based services to people who are deaf **and** blind **and** have many disabilities.
- The program helps by giving more opportunities for individuals to communicate and interact with their environment.

How do I learn more about DBMD?

- Visit the following websites:
 - <https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/deaf-blind-multiple-disabilities-dbmd>
 - <https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/texas-medicaid-waiver-programs-for-children-with-disabilities>

How do I get my child on the DBMD interest list?

- Call the Texas Health and Human Services Commission at 1-877-438-5658.



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