

Transition 2 Go

in Florida



Home and Community-Based Living Medicaid Waivers

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers are Medicaid programs that provide services in the home for persons who would otherwise require institutional care in a hospital or nursing facility. Without waiver services being delivered in the community, some adolescents and young adults might not be able to live at home or receive needed supports in the workplace.

Waivers provide specific services over and above those in the general Medicaid adult benefits package and are targeted to persons who demonstrate the need for a high level of care. Enrollment is typically capped; once enrollment reaches a specified number or dollar threshold, waiting lists are created. The waiting lists for Florida Medicaid Waivers are often years.



There are currently 15 HCBS waivers in Florida. The largest one is for individuals with developmental disabilities ages 3 and older, administered by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). APD offers a broad range of supports and services to assist persons with developmental disabilities, defined in Florida as those who have autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, intellectual disabilities, Prader-Willi syndrome or certain forms of spina bifida. Services may include personal care assistance, companion services, transportation, therapy, behavioral support, skilled nursing, durable medical equipment, and supported employment services. All services require determination of medical necessity. Due to long waiting lists, it is important for families to apply early, even before services might be needed. For more information about the program and applying for services at one of APD's 14 area offices, visit <http://apdcares.org>. Families should also visit the Florida Family Care Council web site at www.fccflorida.org.

Several different waiver programs are listed on the adjacent page. To apply, you must contact the operating agency; each of those agencies is listed in the chart on the next page along with general qualifying criteria for applicants. For full list of waiver programs and descriptions, see the *Florida Medicaid Summary of Services* at http://ahca.myflorida.com/Medicaid/pdf/files/2012-2013_Summary_of_Services_Final_121031.pdf.

Limits		Eligibility Based on Employment Status	Eligibility Based on Disability/ Health Condition	Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion/ Other Circumstances	Monthly Premiums	Legislative Mandate	Requires Annual Certification
Income	Age						
		N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Developmental Disabilities							
Y	3-up	Services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who meet level of care requirements to remain living at home and in the community. Services offered under this waiver include: support coordination, adult day training, consumable medical supplies, residential habilitation therapy, transportation, and personal care assistance. Apply online to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), http://apd.myflorida.com/customers/application .					
Adults with Cystic Fibrosis							
Y	18-59	This program provides services for individuals who are diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and are at risk of hospitalization (as determined by the Department of Elder Affairs) but could remain at home if provided special services. The program may serve up to 150 adults with CF per year. Contact the Department of Health to apply, or visit www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/ .					
Aged/Disabled Adult							
Y	18-up	Allows physically disabled persons ages 18 and over who meet nursing facility level of care to remain living at home and in the community. Services include adult day health care, attendant care, case management, homemaker, personal care services and home-delivered meals. Contact the Department of Elder Affairs to apply, or visit www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/ .					
Familial Dysautonomia							
Y	3-up	Services for individuals who are diagnosed with familial and are at risk of hospitalization (as determined by the Department of Elder Affairs) but could remain at home if provided special services. All waiver services are limited to an annual total amount of \$20,900; this amount is provided per family. For additional information, visit www.familialdysautonomia.org/Florida-Waiver.htm Contact the Agency of Healthcare Administration (AHCA) to apply, or visit www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/ .					
Model Waiver							
Y	0-20	Services for persons with degenerative spinocerebellar disease who otherwise, as determined by Children's Medical Services, require the level of care provided in an acute care hospital. Florida can only serve 5 children at any one time under this program. Contact AHCA to apply, or visit www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/ .					
TBI/Spinal Cord Injury							
Y	18-64	Services for individuals who have traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury, meet nursing facility level of care (as determined by the Department of Elder Affairs) but could remain at home if provided special services. Services offered under this waiver include case management, specialized medical equipment and supplies and personal care. Contact the Department of Health to apply, or visit www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/access/ .					

Health care professionals can help assure that young people with disabilities or chronic health conditions and their families are aware of Medicaid waiver programs as a potential source of services and supports, and provide required documentation, as needed.

For more information about this topic, visit the Tool Box at www.FloridaHATS.com or contact Janet Hess at jhess@health.usf.edu, (813) 259-8604