**Using Iowa Medicaid Waiver Services at Hand-in-Hand**

**A Guide for Parents & Advocates**

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* **Iowa Medicaid waiver services are in place to provide funding, individualized supports and an appropriate level-of-care for individuals who qualify due to a disability. These supports are home and community based, allowing individuals to live and work in their own homes and communities instead of institutions or other living situations that would isolate them.**
* **Each family or individual chooses how to use their Iowa Medicaid waiver services. Hand-in-Hand, one of many waiver providers in the Scott County area, is enrolled to provide 3 different waiver services:**

 **Respite -Designed to give parents/guardians a break from their child’s continuous care**

 **or supervision needs, this service can be used at times when one or more parents are not**

 **working. Parents often use respite time to run errands, spend time with their spouse**

 **and other children or for some much needed ‘me time’.**

 **IMMT (Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment)-This specialized service is reserved**

 **for individuals who have medical needs that may not be easily met by typical caregivers**

 **or programs. Someone who needs to be monitored for seizure activity, severe allergies or**

 **other significant medical conditions will often qualify for this waiver service. IMMT can**

 **be used at any time, allowing parents to work knowing their child’s caregivers are**

 **aware of and ready to respond to any medical concerns that may occur.**

 **SCL (Supported Community Living) - Some participants desire to work on goals that help**

 **them achieve greater independence (much like IEP goals). During SCL time, individuals**

 **are paired 1:1 with caregiver staff to practice and further develop skills in areas such as**

 **peer interaction, communication, personal hygiene, safety, managing negative behaviors**

 **or other activities of daily living.**

* **The Iowa Medicaid waiver allows individuals and their families to combine these and other services to best support their needs. At Hand-in-Hand, for example, one participant’s needs may be best met with a 1:1 caregiver, while others thrive within a small group ratio of 1 caregiver to 3 participants. An individual may take regular medications or need assistance with a catheter. Having trained staff and a low staff-to-participant ratio allows Hand-in-Hand to consistently provide these supports.**
* **As an enrolled provider of Medicaid waiver services, Hand-in-Hand can bill the ID (Intellectual Disability) and HD (Health & Disability) waivers for these supports and services, reducing the out of pocket costs for families whose children/young adults participate in our programs.**
* **For more information about Iowa Medicaid Waiver services, please click the link**

 **below to access the Iowa Department of Human Services website:**

 **<http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hcbs/waivers>**

* **To learn more about using waiver services at Hand-in-Hand, please contact:**

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**What Programs Are Available To Assist People With Disabilities in Iowa?**

**Is there a Medicaid waiver program in Iowa?** Iowa currently has seven Home and Community Based Waivers and a Consumer Choices Option. The waivers include:

* Physical Disabilities (PD);
* Health and Disability (HD);
* Children's Mental Health (CMH);
* Elderly;
* Intellectual Disabilities (ID);
* AIDS/HIV;
* Brain Injury (BI)

**What state department oversees the Medicaid waiver program?**The Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise, oversees the Iowa Medicaid waiver program.

**What programs assist people who have developmental disabilities?** Programs that assist persons with disabilities in Iowa include: HCBS Intellectual Disabilities Waiver & the Health and Disability Waiver.

**What is the best number to call to get started?** You will want to contact the IM Customer Service Center (IMCSC) at 1-877-347-5678

**Is there a website?**[http://www.dhs.state.ia.us](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/mhdd) AND [Home and Community Based Waivers](http://www.ime.state.ia.us/HCBS/help_ownhome.html)

**Who Qualifies For Assistance?**

**What is considered a developmental disability?** To qualify for the Intellectual Disability waiver a primary disability of intellectual disability determined by a psychologist or psychiatrist is required. For additional requirements see the [comparison chart.](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/Home%20and%20Community%20Based%20Waiver%20Program%20Comparison%20Chart%201-2013.doc%20%282%29.pdf) To review requirements for other Iowa waivers, please see the [comparison chart f](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/Home%20and%20Community%20Based%20Waiver%20Program%20Comparison%20Chart%201-2013.doc%20%282%29.pdf)or specifics. Waiver eligibility requirements vary by program.

**Are there income limits to receive services?**You must be determined eligible for Medicaid (Title XIX). Members may be Medicaid eligible prior to accessing waiver services or be determined eligible through the application process for the waiver program.

**How old do you have to be to start receiving services?**There may be age restrictions depending on which waiver the individual is seeking enrollment. The Intellectual Disability waiver does not have an age limit.

**Is There a Waiting List For Services?**

**How long is the waiting list?** The length of wait prior to a slot assignment depends on which waiver the individual is seeking enrollment.

**How many people are currently receiving services?** There are about 12,000 people currently getting Medicaid waiver services on Iowa's INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY waiver. There are a total of about 27,000 people getting Medicaid HCBS waiver services in Iowa-Physical Disabilities (PD); Health and Disability (HD); Children's Mental Health (CMH); Elderly; Intellectual Disabilities (ID); AIDS/HIV; and Brain Injury (BI) waivers.

**What Services Are Offered & What Are The Service Limitations?**

**What services does the Iowa Medicaid waiver program offer?**INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY waiver services include: Adult Day Care; Consumer Choices Option; CDAC; Day Habilitation; Emergency Response; Home Health Aide; Home/Vehicle Modifications; Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment (IMMT); Nursing; Prevocational Services; Respite: Basic Individual; Respite: Group; Respite: Specialized; Supported Community Living; Supported Community Living: Residential-Based (RBSCL) for children; Supported Employment (SE); and Transportation. See the [comparison chart](http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/uploads/Home%20and%20Community%20Based%20Waiver%20Program%20Comparison%20Chart%201-2013.doc%20%282%29.pdf) to review services on other Iowa waivers.

**What services are available to people living in the family home?**All services are available to individuals living in the family home.

**Does Iowa offer community group homes?**Residential Care Facility (RCF) living is an option within the state if the member chooses to live in a licensed facility.

**Does Iowa offer supported living?**SUPPORTED COMMUNITY LIVING- SCL provides one to twenty-four hours of support per day based on the member’s needs. This service is designed to assist the member with daily living needs. Assistance may include, but is not limited to: personal and home skills, community skills, personal needs, transportation and treatment services.

**How Do You Select A Provider?**

**Do providers work for the state?** No

**About how many providers are there in the state?**There are about 500 HCBS agency providers in Iowa.

**Do you have a choice in providers?** Yes, provider choice is a requirement of HCBS member services planning. Rural areas, however, may have limited options when compared to urban areas.