



## WHAT ARE WAIVERS?!

### The Children's Waivers

The Children's Waivers were approved in November 2003 by the federal [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#). These waivers are called home and community-based service (HCBS) waivers. The waivers give the State the flexibility to develop and implement creative alternatives to placing Medicaid-eligible individuals in hospitals, nursing facilities or intermediate care facilities for persons with “mental retardation”. The HCBS waiver program recognizes that many individuals at risk of being placed in these facilities can be cared for in their homes and communities, preserving their independence and ties to family and friends at a cost no higher than that of institutional care.

States have the flexibility to design each waiver program and select the mix of waiver services that best meets the needs of the population they wish to serve. Wisconsin DHFS has a [variety of services](#) with the children's waivers. DHFS also included the intensive in-home autism service in the waivers. States can make home and community-based services available to individuals who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid only if they were in an institutional setting.

A variety of services are available under the children's waivers. If a child is receiving **intensive in-home autism services**, this will be the **only** waiver service delivered.

The federal [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) has approved the following types of services: adaptive equipment, counseling and therapeutic resources, respite, home modifications, specialized transportation, family-directed services, family-centered services, and day services related to supported employment as well as child care. For more information go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/waivers.htm>.

### Katie Beckett Program

The Katie Beckett Program is a special eligibility process that allows certain children with long term disabilities or complex medical needs, living at home with their families, to obtain a Wisconsin Medicaid card.

Children who are not eligible for other Medicaid programs because the income or assets of their parents are too high, may be eligible for Medicaid through the Katie Beckett Program, if they meet *all the following eligibility criteria*:

1. The child is under 19 years of age and determined to be disabled by standards in the Social Security Act;
2. Requires a level of care at home that is typically provided in a hospital or nursing facility;
3. Can be provided safe and appropriate care in the family home;
4. As an individual, does not have income or assets in his or her name in excess of the current standards for a child living in an institution; and
5. Does not incur a cost at home to the Medicaid Program that exceeds the cost Medicaid would pay if the child were in an institution.

For more information go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/kbp/index.htm>

## **Community Options Program**

Community Options helps people who need long term care to stay in their own homes and communities. Its purpose is to provide cost-effective alternatives to expensive care in institutions and nursing homes. Elderly people and people with serious long-term disabilities receive funds and assistance to find services they are not able to get through other programs. Community Options care managers know what services are available in the community, and learn what families and friends are able to do. A care manager will talk to you, or your family member about how to arrange the services and supports you need to avoid going to a nursing home.

Community Options serves people who need long term support, *regardless of age or type of disability*, who need the same levels of physical or mental health care as nursing home residents do. There are no income limits for a Community Options assessment and care plan. However, income guidelines are used to determine if Community Options will pay for part or all of the cost of services that the assessment determines is necessary. People who can afford to pay may receive help finding the services they need after an assessment is completed.

For more information go to [http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/LTC\\_COP/cop.htm](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/LTC_COP/cop.htm)

## **Community Support Programs for Persons with Severe and Persistent Mental Illnesses**

Since 1978, the Bureau Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Division of Disability and Elder Services, has programmatically and fiscally supported the development of Community Support Programs (CSPs) for persons with severe and persistent mental illnesses. A Community Support Program or CSP is a coordinated care and treatment program which provides a range of treatment, rehabilitation, and support services through an identified treatment program and staff to ensure ongoing therapeutic involvement, individualized treatment, rehabilitation, and support services in the community for persons with severe and

persistent mental illness. With the development of Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) in 2006, Wisconsin is increasing access to supportive services for children, adolescents and adults, including older adults with mental health or substance use disorders. CCS programs will use a wraparound model that is flexible, consumer directed, recovery oriented, strength and outcome based.

For more information go to  
[http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/mh\\_bcmh/StateSum.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/mh_bcmh/StateSum.htm)

## **Family Care**

Family Care is a long-term care program being piloted in nine Wisconsin counties. As a comprehensive and flexible long-term care service system, Family Care strives to foster people's independence and quality of life, while recognizing the need for interdependence and support.

Aging and Disability Resource Centers serve the general public and offer information and assistance on issues affecting older people, people with disabilities, or their families.

The Family Care benefit is available through Care Management Organizations (CMOs). CMOs serve people in three primary target groups who have a long-term care condition expected to last for more than 90 days. The three Family Care target groups are:

1. Frail Older Adults  
(65 years or older; age 60 or older in Milwaukee County)
2. People with Physical Disabilities  
(17 years, 9 months or older)
3. People with Developmental Disabilities  
(17 years, 9 months or older)

For more information go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/lcicare/>

## **Brain Injury Waiver Program**

This waiver program provides home- and community-based services for people with brain injuries who need significant supports. The program began January 1, 1995.

Persons eligible for the brain injury waiver must be eligible for Medicaid and meet the definition of brain injury in 51.01 (2g) of the Wisconsin State statutes:

*Brain injury is defined as any injury to the brain, regardless of age of onset, whether mechanical or infectious in origin, including brain trauma, brain injury, brain damage and traumatic head injury. It includes injuries that are vascular in origin (CVA or aneurysm) if received by a person prior to his or her attaining the age of 22 years. Brain injury does not include alcoholism, Alzheimer's disease or the infirmities of aging.*

In addition, the person must be receiving or be eligible to receive post acute rehabilitation services in a nursing home or hospital designated as a special unit for brain injury rehabilitation by the Wisconsin Medicaid Program (WMAP). The person must also have, as a result of the injury, significant physical, cognitive, emotional and/or behavioral impairments.

For more information go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/brain.htm>

## **Community Integration Program**

The Community Integration Program (CIP1) helps people with developmental disabilities relocate from state centers and nursing homes back to their communities. In limited circumstances CIP1 can help prevent someone from having to leave his/her community. CIP1 is funded through the federal Medicaid Program (MA). CIP funds are used to provide opportunities for:

- People with disabilities having a say about how they want their lives to look.
- People with disabilities having choices and as much control over their lives as possible.
- Services being designed to meet people's individual needs.
- Promoting independence to the greatest level possible.
- People with disabilities having lives as much like everyone else's as possible.

CIP promotes partnerships with counties, providers and guardians to monitor the health, safety, and quality of participants' lives.

CIP state staff is assigned to specific counties and/or tribes throughout Wisconsin. Staff has broad backgrounds in the field of disabilities. The County Assignment List shows which Community Integration Specialist (CIS) is responsible for serving which counties/tribes, and provides information for contacting the CIS in your area.

For more information go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/cip/index.htm>

Compiled by Liz Hecht, Family Voices of Wisconsin rev 3/07