Medicaid 101
A Guide to 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

Cabinet for Health and Family Services
Department for Medicaid Services
A Medicaid Waiver History Lesson

1965
Medicaid begins but only provides long-term care in institutional settings.

1981
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) allows 1915(c) HCBS waiver programs to provide long-term care in the community.
What is a waiver?

CMS allows states to “waive” certain Medicaid program requirements.
1915(c) HCBS Waiver Requirements

States must...

1. Provide the same level of care in the community as in an institution.
2. Demonstrate cost of care in the community is equal or less than an institution (budget neutral).
3. Conduct quality assurance.

Meeting these requirements allows states to receive federal dollars to pay for 1915(c) HCBS waiver services.
Kentucky’s 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Programs
1915(c) HCBS Waiver Eligibility

Nursing Facility (NF) Level of Care

- Requires high-intensity nursing care or rehabilitation services
- Complex medical needs that can only be performed or supervised by a professional
- Unstable medical condition with at least two care needs in specific areas
- Stable medical condition with at least two care needs in specific areas
1915(c) HCBS Waiver Eligibility

Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) Level of Care

- Intellectual disability or related condition diagnosed prior to age 18 or 22 (depending on condition)
- Has deficits in at least one activity of daily living
- Requires a planned treatment program and protected environment to live safely in the community
1915(c) HCBS Waiver Eligibility

Financial Eligibility

Participants must meet the financial qualifications for Medicaid, however, special financial considerations are made for 1915(c) HCBS waivers.
1915(c) HCBS Waiver Eligibility

**ABI**
- Age 18 or older
- Have a brain injury
- Meet NF level of care
- Need acute rehabilitation

**ABI LTC**
- Age 18 or older
- Have a brain injury
- Meet NF level of care
- Need long-term, intensive support
1915(c) HCBS Waiver Eligibility

HCB
- Age 65 or older and/or physically disabled
- Meet NF level of care

MIIW
- Ventilator dependent 12 or more hours a day
- On an active, physician-monitored weaning program
- Meets NF level of care
1915(c) HCBS Waiver Eligibility

MPW
- Have an intellectual or developmental disability
- Meet NF or ICF level of care

SCL
- Have an intellectual or developmental disability
- Meet ICF level of care
## Services Offered by Kentucky’s 1915(c) HCBS Waivers

**Goods & Services**
- Environmental & Minor Home Modifications
- Non-Specialized Respite
- Personal Care & Homemaking

**Counseling & Behavior Services***

**Day Training***

**Residential Services***

**Supported Employment***

*Service not available in all waivers

Waiver participants also have access to services offered by Kentucky’s state Medicaid program.
Services Offered by Kentucky’s 1915(c) HCBS Waivers

The Modell II Waiver (MIIW) differs slightly from the rest and offers three services only.

- Skilled Services by a Registered Nurse
- Skilled Services by a Licensed Practical Nurse
- Skilled Services by a Respiratory Therapist
Service Delivery Options

Traditional

- Participants use agencies to deliver all of their waiver services.

Participant-Directed (PDS)

- Participants hire their own employees, including friends, family or natural supports.

Blended

- Participants use agencies for some services but hire their own employees for others.
From Application to Services

Apply at benefitfind.ky.gov → Application Reviewed → Slot Reserved*

*MPW and SCL currently have wait lists. Individuals who qualify for a slot will be placed on the list.

Assessment Conducted → Person-Centered Service Plan Created → Services Begin → Yearly Reassessment & Recertification
Waiver Resources

Visit Us Online:
Go to chfs.ky.gov and search “Community Alternatives”

News from the 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Programs

Service authorization changes: As of Nov. 25, 2019, case managers are approving most services on person-centered service plans for 1915(c) HCBS waiver participants. DMS has released several resources for stakeholders.

- Service Authorization Standard Operating Procedure
- Service Authorization Crosswalks: AB/ABI LTC, HCB, Model II, MPW, SOL
- Summary of MwMA Improvements for Providers
- MwMA Quick Reference Guides: LOC Determination, LOC Review
- Creating/Modifying PCSPs, Prior Authorizations, Program Closures, and Services Requiring CHFS review
- Instructional Guide: Locating PA Information in MMIS
- Examples: Team Meeting Sign-In Sheet

If you have questions about service authorization policy, contact DMS. If you have technical issues or questions about MwMA, please call (800) 635-2570.

Patient liability: On Jan. 1, 2020, DMS changed the way it calculates patient liability for 1915(c) HCBS waiver participants. Read the Patient Liability Participant Letter, Patient Liability Provider Letter or the Patient Liability Brochure for details.
Waiver Contact Information

Visit Us Online:
Go to chfs.ky.gov and search “Community Alternatives”

Call Us:
(844) 784-5614

Email Us:
1915cWaiverHelpDesk@ky.gov

To Receive Email Updates:
MedicaidPublicComment@ky.gov

To Apply:
benefind.ky.gov
That’s All Folks!