



Medicaid Waivers

What is a Medicaid Waiver?

Waivers let states use Medicaid funds for long-term home- and community-based services for people with disabilities or special health care needs to help them live in the community. Some of the services available with a waiver include:

- Personal care for help with activities such as bathing or dressing
- Nursing care
- Home modifications like ramps
- Car modifications
- Respite care
- Certain therapies

In Texas there are several different Long-Term Services and Supports waiver programs, including:

- [Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities \(DBMD\)](#)
- [Community Living Assistance and Support Services \(CLASS\)](#)
- [Medically Dependent Children Program \(MDCP\)](#)
- [Home and Community-based Services \(HCS\)](#)
- [Texas Home Living \(TxHmL\)](#)

When should families enroll their child in a Medicaid waiver program?

Many waiver programs have an interest list used to fill slots as they become available. Depending on the waiver, available slots and funding, and number of interested individuals, there can be a lengthy wait time to enroll in a waiver program.

Families should add their child to the interest list for any of the waivers they feel may be appropriate based on their child's medical condition or diagnosis as soon as possible. Eligibility will be confirmed when the child moves to the top of the list and the family is contacted to discuss enrollment in the waiver. If a child comes to the top of the interest list, the family will be contacted; however, they are not required to enroll at that time. They can decline or choose to move to the bottom of the interest list.

How do families add their child to a Medicaid waiver interest list?

For families interested in CLASS and DBMD, call 1-877-438-5658 for information about getting their child placed on the interest list.

For families interested in HCS and TxHmL, contact the local intellectual and developmental disability authority (LIDDA) that serves the county in which they live. Find the LIDDA for your county here:

<https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/search.cfm>

Additional Resources

Fact sheets with the description, services, eligibility and other information for each waiver can be accessed below. Additionally, there is a comparison chart that includes this information in one document for parents to review as they determine which waiver(s) may be best for their child's needs.

- [What is the Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities \(DBMD\) waiver?](#)
- [What is the Community Living Assistance and Support Services \(CLASS\) waiver?](#)
- [What is the Home and Community-Based Services \(HCS\) waiver?](#)
- [What is the Texas Home Living \(TxHmL\) waiver?](#)
- [Comparison chart of all LTSS waivers](#)