

MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAMS

What are Medicaid Waiver Programs?

Medicaid waiver programs are for people who have a chronic illness or disability. They are called a waiver program because they waive the income that the family makes. Even if you already have Medicaid insurance, a Medicaid waiver program provide additional supports or funding beyond what Medicaid provides. You can have private insurance and be on a Medicaid waiver.

How Fast Can I Get On a Medicaid Waiver Program?

All the waiver programs have waiting lists, most last between 8-10 years. So you should apply right away! Also, while you are on the waiting list, be sure the program always knows how to contact you. If you move or change your phone number, be sure to update your records with the program.

Home and Community Services (HCS): The Home and Community-based Services (HCS) program is a Medicaid waiver program that provides services to individuals with mental retardation who either live with their family, in their own home, in a foster/companion care setting or in a residence with no more than four individuals who receive services.

Criteria: Must have an intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and/or physical disability.

- You can sign up for this waiver at any age 0 – 99.
- Call (713) 970-7799 to be placed on the HCS interest list.
- Visit <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm> for more information.

MHMRA Home and Community Services (HCS): The MHMRA-HCS program provides a comprehensive, community based service system for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Individuals enrolled in the program may choose where and with whom they live, including the option of living with their natural family or in a companion foster care residence.

Criteria: Any type of intellectual disability with an IQ of 75 or below.

- You can sign up for this waiver at any age 0 – 99.
- To enroll you must call (713) 970-7799.
 - Texana MHMRA (281) 342-0090, Tri County MHMRA (936) 525-2685.
- List of providers <http://www.mhmraharris.org/idd/hcsproviders.htm>
- Visit <http://www.mhmraharris.org/idd/whatishcs.htm> for more information.

Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS): CLASS provides home- and community-based services to people with a physical disability. The condition must of originated before the age of 22 and affect the individual's ability to function in daily life. The CLASS program includes: behavioral support, adaptive aids, medical supplies, respite care, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, minor home modifications, nursing, specialized therapies, pre-vocational training, supported employment, transition assistance, and others.

Criteria: Must have a physical disability.

- You can sign up for this Waiver at any age 0 – 99.
- Call (877) 438-5658 to apply.
- Visit <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm> for more information.



Texas Home Living Waiver (TxHmL): The Texas Home Living Waiver provides funding for services and supports for people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. These services are meant to provide for your personal development, health, and overall quality of life, as well as to give support to your guardians and caregivers.

Criteria: Must have an intellectual or developmental disability.

- Call (713) 970-8385 for more information.
- Visit <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/contact.cfm> for more information.

Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP): This program is for children who are under 21 years. MDCP provides services to families caring for children and young adults as an alternative to receiving services in a nursing facility. MDCP services include: respite, adaptive aids, employment assistance, flexible family supports (services that support a person's basic daily activities like bathing, dressing, and preparing meals), minor home modifications, and others. STAR+PLUS is the adult counterpart to the MDCP (more information below).

Criteria: Must meet the medical criteria for admission to a Texas nursing facility; meet the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) medical disability criteria.

- Call (877) 438-5658 to apply.
- It is recommended if you are 0 – 14 years old to apply for the MDCP program.
 - IF you are 15 – 18 years old it is recommended to sign up for both MDCP and for STAR+PLUS interest list.
 - IF you are 18 – 99 years sign up with STAR+PLUS interest list.
 - Contact STAR+PLUS through DADs local office or on-line: www.dads.state.tx.us/contact/combined.cfm.

ADULT ONLY WAIVER

STAR+PLUS Waiver: Depending on the county you are located within the age requirement is 21 years and over. Must need skilled nursing care. STAR+PLUS is a Texas Medicaid managed care program for people who have disabilities or are age 65 or older. People in STAR+PLUS get Medicaid health-care and long-term services and support through a medical plan that they choose.

- Call (877) 438-5658 to apply regardless of which county you are located in.
 - If you are located in Harris County call: (713) 692-1635
- Visit <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-and-chip/programs/starplus> for more information.
- When you are on MDCP you will not automatically be rolled over to STAR+PLUS, you must call STAR+PLUS before you reach 18 years and ask for the application and sign it in order to be rolled over to STAR+PLUS (signature is necessary, no verbal agreement).
 - When you are actively using MDCP then you will be rolled over to STAR+PLUS after signing and will not need to go on the interest list.
 - If you are on MDCP interest list you will go to STAR+PLUS interest list after signing.
 - When you sign with STAR+PLUS you will first wait on the interest list.