



## Home and Community-Based Waivers

### Overview:

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) provide opportunities for eligible Medicaid beneficiaries to receive services in their own home or community rather than institutions or other isolated settings. These programs serve a variety of groups, such as people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, autism, physical disabilities, mental illnesses and seniors.

Medicaid Waiver programs provide HCBS by “waiving” federal Medical Assistance requirements for people to receive services in an institutional setting only. Prior to 1991, the Federal Medicaid program paid for services only if a person lived in an institution.

Today, individuals are allowed to waive their right to institutional services but still receive funds necessary for their care. Waivers are also referred to as 1915 (c) waivers (because it is under section 1915 of the Social Security Act).

Medicaid waiver programs are jointly funded by the federal government and each state. Each year, every state is given their Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), which is used to calculate the amount of Federal dollars the state will receive for Medicaid services.

In Pennsylvania, the waiver program for people with intellectual disabilities and autism (ID/A) is administered by Pennsylvania’s Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) which offers three waivers:

- Consolidated
- Community Living
- Person Family Directed Support (P/FDS)

In order to be eligible for enrollment in one of the ODP waivers, a person must meet Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) or Intermediate Care Facility/Other Related Condition (ICF/ORC) Level of Care and financial eligibility requirements.

Refer to the PA Office of Developmental Programs Bulletin effective 11/26/2019, [Individual Eligibility for the Consolidated, P/FDS and Community Living Waivers.](#)

### **The process to get an HCBS Waiver**

- Register with your [County Mental or Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disability Program Office](#), also known as an Administrative Entity (AE) to determine if you are eligible for intellectual disability or autism services and you may have an intake meeting.
- If you do not already have Medical Assistance (Medicaid), you will need to be found eligible for it by your local [Pennsylvania County Assistance Office](#)

Once you are determined eligible for intellectual disability or autism services, you will receive Supports Coordination services. You will be asked to choose a [Support Coordination Organization \(SCO\)](#) from a list given to you by your [County Mental or Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disability Program Office](#). Once a SCO is chosen, a Support Coordinator (SC) will be assigned to you. [Click here](#) for more information on the role of Supports Coordination.

The SC will meet with you to complete an application for the Medicaid waiver program, develop an [Individual Support Plan \(ISP\)](#) and complete a [Prioritization of Urgency of Needs for Services \(PUNS\)](#).

**Other useful resources:**

[Locate your County Assistance office](#)

[Individual Support Plan and Prioritization of Urgency of Needs for Services \(PUNS\)](#).

[Prioritization of Urgency of Needs for Services \(PUNS\)](#)

Intellectual Disabilities Services Customer Service Line: 888.565.9435

[Pennsylvania Intellectual Disabilities Services](#)

General Information on the HCBS (Home and Community-Based Service) Waivers can be found on [Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services website](#)

Achieva disability advocates provide information, technical assistance and individual advocacy on issues that impact children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism and their families. We also work with state and federal legislators and policy makers to ensure that the human, civil and legal rights of people with disabilities are protected and that they are afforded services to assist them to be included in their communities. We will provide guidance, information and technical assistance to the best of our ability. Achieva advocates are available to answer questions specific to your situation. Please contact us at 412.995.5000 x486, 888.272.7229 x 486 (Toll-Free) or log onto [www.achieva.info/contact-advocacy](http://www.achieva.info/contact-advocacy).