

Home and Community Based Services Waiver Programs



What are Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver programs?

These are Medicaid programs that provide long term care support services to older adults and people with various disabilities to enable them to remain living at home or in another community based setting.

Who is eligible for Waiver programs?

Individuals who meet both functional and financial requirements can qualify for a Waiver:

- **Functional eligibility** varies from program to program, but all programs require that the consumer meet an institutional level of care requirement.
- **Financial eligibility:** To qualify, the individual applicant must have **income below \$2,199/month** and **countable resources below \$8,000** (includes savings accounts and IRAs/401Ks) **in 2016**. Spousal impoverishment rules apply to the resources of a married couple.

How can I apply for a Waiver?

Generally, applying for an HCBS Waiver is a two-step process. First, an assessment is completed to determine if someone meets the functional criteria. Second, there is a review of income and resources to see if someone meets the financial criteria. Please see the next page for more information about how to start the application process for the different programs available.

Please note that **entry into a waiver program is not guaranteed**. There are limited funds available, and depending on the Waiver program, consumers may be placed on a waiting list before they can receive services.

What are the programs available to adults in Southwestern PA?

Adults with Physical Disabilities-Contact Maximus (1-877-550-4227) to apply

- **Attendant Care Waiver:** for individuals aged 18-59 with physical disabilities lasting 12 months or more, who are mentally alert and able to direct their own care.
- **Aging (PDA) Waiver:** for individuals age 60 and over who require intermediate or skilled care but prefer to remain in the community.
- **COMMCARE Waiver:** for individuals age 21 and over who have a traumatic brain injury.
- **OBRA Waiver:** for those who are 18 and older with severe developmental disabilities resulting in substantial functional limitations. The individual cannot have an intellectual disability or a major mental illness as a primary diagnosis.
- **Independence Waiver:** for individuals who are 18 and over with a physical disability that results in substantial functional limitations. The individual cannot have an intellectual disability or major mental illness as a primary diagnosis.

Adults with Intellectual Disabilities-Contact the local County Office of Intellectual Disabilities where you live to apply

- **Consolidated Waiver:** for individuals age 3 and older who have an intellectual disability (IQ <70) and significant limits in adaptive functioning.
- **Person/family Directed Supports (PFDS) Waiver:** for individuals age 3 and older who have an intellectual disability (IQ <70) and significant limits in adaptive functioning. A yearly budget cap for services applies; no residential services covered.

Adults with Autism-Contact Bureau of Autism Services (1-866-539-7689) to apply

- **Autism Waiver:** for individuals age 21 and older with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder who have significant functional limitations.

The Pennsylvania Health Law Project provides free legal help to consumers wanting to access home and community based services through Waivers. If you need further information or assistance in applying for services, please call our Helpline at 1-800-274-3258.