Waiver Programs

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Funding Sources – Harris County

- General Revenue (GR)
- Medicaid
- Local County
- Local/Income Contracts
- Other 3rd Party

Home and Community Based Services (HCS)

HCS provides individualized services and supports to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are living with their family, in their own home or in other community settings, such as small group homes.

Eligibility:

- No age limit.
- Must not be enrolled in another Medicaid waiver program.
- Must have had a determination of mental retardation made in accordance with state law or have been diagnosed by a physician as having a related condition.
- Must meet specific requirements for intelligence quotient (IQ).
- Must have chosen the HCS Program over the Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Mental Retardation Program.
- Have an individual plan of care that does not exceed a specific annual cost limit.

Services Provided:

- Case management
- Adaptive aids
- Minor home modifications
- Counseling and therapies (includes audiology; speech/language pathology, occupational or physical therapy; dietary services; social work; and psychology)
- Dental treatment
- Nursing
- Residential assistance
  - Supported home living
  - Foster/companion care
  - Supervised living
  - Residential support
- Respite
- Day habilitation
- Supported employment

Texas Home Living Waiver (TxHmL)

This program provides selected essential services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in their family homes or their own homes.

Eligibility:

- No age limit.
- Have a determination of mental retardation made in accordance with state law or have been diagnosed by a physician as having a related condition.
- Not be assigned a pervasive plus level of need (LON 9).
- Live in their own home or with their family.
- Not be enrolled in another Medicaid waiver program.
- Have a plan of care that does not exceed the specific program annual cost limit.
- Have chosen TxHmL over the Intermediate Care for Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation program.

Services Provided:

- Adaptive aids
- Minor home modifications
- Specialized therapies (audiology, speech/language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and dietary services)
- Behavioral support
- Dental treatment
- Nursing
- Community support
- Respite
- Day habilitation
- Employment assistance
- Supported employment

Community Living Assistance & Support Services (CLASS)

Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) provides home and community-based services to people with related conditions as a cost-effective alternative to placement in an intermediate care facility for persons with mental retardation or a related condition (ICF-MR/RC). A related condition is a disability, other than mental retardation, that originated before age 22 and that affects the ability to function in daily life. Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option allows DADS consumers to hire and manage the persons who provide their services.

Eligibility:

- There is no age limit; however, the onset of the disability must have been before age 22.
- Have a DADS-approved initial individual service plan that does not exceed the program's cost ceiling.
- Meet ICF/MR level of care criteria.
- Have a demonstrated need for ongoing habilitation services.
- Reside in a geographic catchment area where CLASS services are provided.
- Have chosen the CLASS program over the ICF/MR program.
- Financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Services Provided:

- Adaptive aids and medical supplies
- Case management
- Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option
- Habilitation
- Minor home modifications
- Nursing services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Prescription drugs, not covered by Medicare
- Psychological services
- Respite care
- Specialized therapies
- Speech pathology

COMMUNITY BASED ALTERNATIVES (CBA)

Community Based Alternatives (CBA) provides home and community-based services to people who are elderly and to adults with disabilities as a cost-effective alternative to living in a nursing home. DADS employees provide case management services.

Eligibility:

- Must be age 21 or older.
- The cost of applicant's service plan cannot exceed the nursing facility payment rate.
- Must meet the medical necessity determination for nursing facility care.
- Must be determined at risk for nursing facility placement.
- Must choose waiver services instead of nursing facility care based on an informed choice.
- Financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission for applicants not already receiving Medicaid.

Services Provided:

- Adaptive aids and medical supplies
- Adult Foster Care
- Assisted living / residential care services
- Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option
- Emergency Response Services
- Home-delivered Meals
- Minor home modifications
- Nursing services
- Occupational therapy services
- Personal assistance services
- Physical therapy services
- Prescription drugs
- Respite care services
- Speech and/or language pathology services

Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)

The Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD) program provides home and community-based services to people who are deaf-blind with multiple disabilities as a cost-effective alternative to institutional placement. The program focuses on increasing opportunities for consumers to communicate and interact with their environment.

Clients can choose from among three options for residential support:

- Live in their own home or apartment with support.
- Live with a parent or guardian with support.
- Live in a group home with support.

Eligibility:

- Be age 18 or older.
- Financial eligibility is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
- Meet the definition of blind and deaf and have a third disability which limits independent functioning.

Services Provided:

- Adaptive aids and medical supplies
- Assisted living (licensed up to six beds)
- Behavior communication services
- Case management
- Chore provider
- Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option
- Day habilitation
- Dietary services
- Environmental accessibility/minor home modifications
- Nursing services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Prescription drugs
- Residential habilitation
- Respite care
- Speech, hearing, and language therapy

MEDICALLY DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (MDCP)

The Medically Dependent Children Program provides services to support families caring for children who are medically dependent and to encourage de-institutionalization of children in nursing facilities. DADS employees provide case management services.

Eligibility:

- Be under age 21.
- Meet the medical necessity criteria for nursing facility care.
- Financial eligibility for applicants not already receiving Medicaid coverage is determined by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Scope:

MDCP is not an entitlement program. Texas is not obligated to operate the MDCP. MDCP can only retain funding if it operates within its budget and remains cost-effective. The responsible use of all resources rests with families and MDCP staff. It is a collaborative process. MDCP can provide a specific range of services in limited amounts. For the most part, parents choose the services for their child. If parents do not comply with the program rules, eligibility can be denied.

Program Goals:

MDCP strives to support inclusion of children with disabilities in a cost-effective manner through a process that does not supplant the family role and to support permanency planning for all program participants. MDCP strives to:

- enable children and young adults who are medically dependent to remain safely in their homes,
- offer cost-effective alternatives to placement in nursing facilities and hospitals, and
- support families in their role as the primary caregiver for their children and young adults who are medically dependent

MEDICALLY DEPENDENT CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (MDCP)

Services Provided:

Respite care is a service, which provides temporary relief from caregiving to the primary caregiver of a waiver participant during times when the participant's primary caregiver would normally provide care.

Adjunct support services are a varied selection of approved, individualized, disability-related services that support participation in child care, post-secondary education, or independent living, or that support an impending move to an independent living situation, and that may vary by child, provider, and setting.

Adaptive aids are devices necessary to treat, rehabilitate, prevent, or compensate for conditions resulting in disability or loss of function. Adaptive aids enable people to perform the activities of daily living (ADL) or control the environment in which they live. MDCP covered adaptive aids must be necessary to prevent the institutionalization or support the deinstitutionalization of a participant, and may include vehicle lifts with tie-downs and other items that assist in the performance of activities of daily living, or help the participant control his/her environment, and are not covered by other sources.

An example of a device, which would allow the participant to control the environment in which he/she lives, is an environmental control unit-- a computer or other device that allows its user to operate the phone, television, lights, etc.

MDCP could also cover the installation cost for a CCP-approved lift, when CCP pays for the lift and related hardware, but does not cover installation.

MDCP will not approve items whose primary purpose is recreation (such as a tricycle) or education (such as a computer for schoolwork), and may not approve items that have only an indirect relationship to the performance of activities of daily living (such as exercise equipment and whirlpools). Some items may be considered durable medical equipment and/or therapeutic in nature, but may not be approved by MDCP if they do not assist the individual in the performance of ADLs or allow the individual to control his/her environment.

Minor home modifications are a physical modification to a participant's home, required by the participant's Individual Plan of Care (IPC), which is necessary to prevent institutionalization or support deinstitutionalization. MDCP covered modifications are limited to the purchase and installation of permanent and portable ramps not covered by other sources; the widening of doorways; the modification of bathroom facilities; and modifications related to the approved installation or modifications of ramps, doorways, or bathroom facilities.

Nursing facility to community transition assistance

STAR + PLUS

STAR+PLUS is a Texas Medicaid managed care program designed to provide health care, acute and long-term services and support through a managed care system. STAR+PLUS program combines traditional health care (such as doctor visits) and long-term services and support, such as providing help in your home with daily activities, home modifications, respite care (short-term supervision) and personal assistance.

Eligibility:

Enrollment in STAR+PLUS is **required** for Medicaid recipients who live in a STAR+PLUS service area and fit one or more of the following criteria:

- People who have a physical or mental disability and qualify for supplemental security income (SSI) benefits or for Medicaid due to low income.
- People who qualify for Community-Based Alternatives (CBA) 1915(c) waiver services.
- People age 21 or older who can receive Medicaid because they are in a Social Security Exclusion program and meet financial criteria for 1915(c) waiver services.
- People age 21 or older who are receiving SSI.

Enrollment in STAR+PLUS is **voluntary** for:

- Children under age 21 receiving SSI.

The following people **cannot** participate in the STAR+PLUS program:

- Residents of nursing facilities.
- STAR+PLUS members who have been in a nursing facility for more than 120 days.
- Clients of Medicaid 1915(c) waiver services, other than Community-Based Alternative services.
- Residents of Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF-MR).
- Clients not eligible for full Medicaid benefits, such as Frail Elderly program members, Qualified Medicare Beneficiaries, Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries, Qualified Disabled Working Individuals and undocumented individuals.
- People not eligible for Medicaid.
- Children in state foster care.

STAR + PLUS

Services Provided:

Long-term services and supports provided by the health plans include:

- Day Activity and Health Services (DAHS)
- Personal Assistance Services (PAS)
- Home delivered meals.

Additional services include

- Adaptive aids,
- Adult foster care home services,
- Adult day care services,
- Assisted living,
- Emergency response services,
- Medical supplies,
- Minor home modifications,
- Nursing services,
- Respite care (short-term supervision),
- Therapies (occupational, physical and speech-language).
- Cancer screening, diagnostic, and treatment services
- Chiropractic services
- Dialysis
- Family planning services
- Home health care services
- Hospital services, inpatient/outpatient
- Laboratory
- Medical checkups and Comprehensive Care Program (CCP) Services for children (under age 21) through the Texas Health Steps Program
- Oral evaluation and fluoride varnish in the Medical Home in conjunction with Texas Health Steps medical checkup for children 6 months through 35 months of age.
- Podiatry
- Prenatal care
- Primary care services
- Preventive services including an annual adult well check for patients 21 years of age and over
- Radiology, imaging, and X-rays
- Specialty physician services
- Transplantation of organs and tissues
- Vision

Adult Services

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Adult Services – Harris County

Harris County Psychiatric Center Liaison Team video: The liaison team, located at the Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC), serve as consultants for patients with mental retardation and/or autism.

Home & Community Based Services (HCS) video: HCS 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.

In Home and Family Support (IHFS): The IHFS program provides direct grant benefits to individuals with mental retardation or their families to purchase items or services that directly support the person to live in his or her natural home.

Adult Services – Harris County

Intermediate Care Facility-Mental Retardation (ICF-MR) video: The ICF-MR program provides ongoing evaluation, individual program planning, as well as 24-hour supervision, coordination, and integration for health or rehabilitative services to help individuals function to their greatest ability.

Respite Care video: Respite Care provides temporary or intermittent direct care of a child or adult, either in-home or out-of-home. It is designed to relieve the caregiver of stress resulting from continuous care of a dependent person or persons.

Specialized Therapies & Rehabilitative Services (STARS) video: The STARS clinic provides psychiatric, psychological, nursing and behavioral support services for people with mental retardation and mental illness, or autism spectrum disorders.

Adult Services – Harris County

Texas Home Living Waiver (TxHML): TxHmL offers services to support people who live in their own homes or with their families. TxHmL services are intended to supplement instead of replace the services and supports a person may receive from other programs or from natural supports such as family, neighbors, or community organizations.

Behavior Day Program : The Behavior Day Program is an intense, time-limited day program for adults with severe behaviors.

Coffeehouse video: The Coffeehouse provides "Drop in" social skills and communication training for adults with Asperger's Disorder or autism and limited cognitive delays.

IDD Dual Diagnosis Service: The IDD Dual Diagnosis Service is a partial or full day program that targets the symptoms of mental illness in adults with IDD. Services include assessment, individual and group therapy and self-management skills.

Adult Services – Harris County

Employment Services video: The Mental Retardation Employment Services Program is a job placement and job-coaching program for adults . Consumers learn job readiness skills and then put those skills to use in finding the community job that is best suited to them.

Site Based/Day Habilitation: Structured day activity programs that provide services designed to assist in the acquisition, retention, and/or improvement in adaptive skills necessary for community living.

Vocational Training: Provides training to assist consumers to become employed or to increase skills in daily living.