# Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

July 18, 2025

Texas Parent to Parent

Presented by EveryChild, Inc.

# Importance of Services and Supports for Children and Families

Everyone needs support and assistance every day to live our lives fully.

For individuals with a disability the need for support is unique and often more significant. With the right supports and services, individuals with disabilities can live a life fully included in their homes and communities.

# What you can do to help strengthen the system

- Learn about Medicaid benefits and how to access services, including Medicaid buy-in programs

- Learn about Medicaid waivers, the importance of getting on waiting lists and ways to get support when in a crisis

- Learn about how to plan for transition from children's services to adult services

# What is in this presentation

- Key Medicaid Benefits for Children and Adults with Disabilities
  - Community First Choice
- Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers
- Medicaid Buy-In

# Key Medicaid Services

- Doctors and Hospital
- Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Home Health Nursing
- Therapy – OT, PT, Speech
- Psychological Services
- Community First Choice/Personal Care Services

# Community First Choice

- Community First Choice is a Medicaid service that provides personal assistance services and habilitation for individuals who qualify including individuals with developmental disabilities.

- Individual must have Medicaid and meet eligibility criteria for a nursing facility, intermediate care facility or residential treatment center.

- Children and young adults under the age of 21 contact their STAR Kids, STAR or STAR Health Service Coordinator. You can also contact your LIDDA. https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/search.cfm

- Adults 21 and over with developmental disabilities contact their local intellectual and developmental disability authority https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/ search.cfm or their STAR Plus Managed Care Organization's Service Coordinator.

# Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waivers

# Texas Home and Community-based Waivers

**MDCP**

Medically Dependent Children Program

**CLASS**

Community Living Assistance and Support Services

**HCS**

Home and Community Services

**TxHmL**

Texas Home Living Waiver

**DBMD**

Deaf/Blind and Multiple Disabilities

**STAR+Plus**

Home and Community Based Waiver

**YES**

Youth Empowerment Services

# Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

Medicaid home and community-based service waivers afford States the flexibility to develop and implement creative alternatives to placing Medicaid-eligible individuals in hospitals, nursing facilities, or intermediate care facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities or related conditions.

# Home and Community Based Services Waivers

- Flexible
- Wide range of services and supports possible
- Family and consumer driven
- Waiver eligibility is based on the finances of the person and not the family. For children under 18, the income of the parent is NOT considered, except for Texas Home Living
- Waiver is mechanism for individuals to become eligible for Medicaid
- Waivers are not entitlements so there can be waiting lists

# MDCP

# MDCP – Medically Dependent Children Program

Alternative to nursing facility for children under 21

Must meet medical necessity for nursing facility level of care

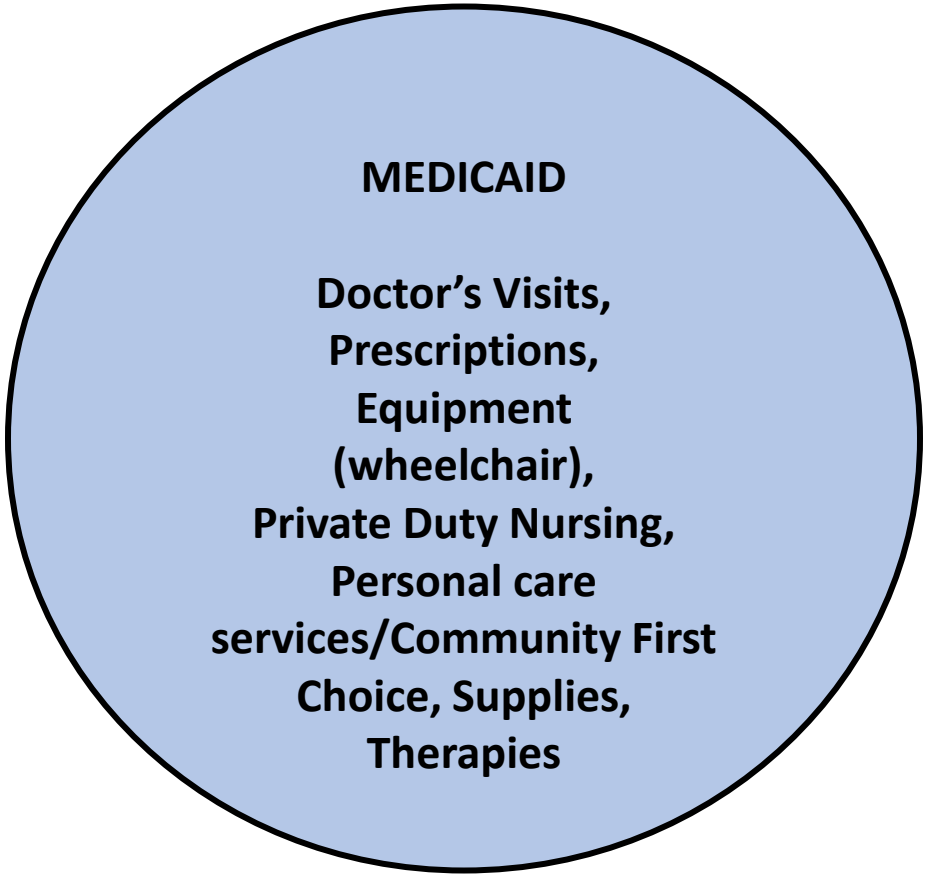
Does not consider parental income/Individual Income 3x SSI

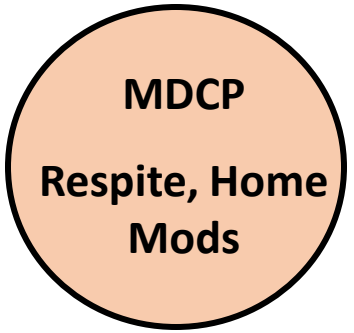
Cost cap is 50% of nursing facility rate

# MDCP – Medically Dependent Children Program

| Services | |
|---|---|
| Respite<br>Provided by nurse of direct care provider | Flexible Family Supports<br>Assistance to participate in childcare, independent living and community activities |
| Home Modifications<br>$7,500 life-time cap<br>$300 annual repair/maintenance | Adaptive Aids<br>$4,000 annual limit<br>List of approved items |
| Employment Assistance | Supported Employment |
| Transition Assistance Services<br>Up to $2,500 to transition from institution | |

# E’s Benefits


MEDICAID
Doctor’s Visits, Prescriptions, Equipment (wheelchair), Private Duty Nursing, Personal care services/Community First Choice, Supplies, Therapies


MDCP
Respite, Home Mods

# Important Facts About MDCP

- Children and young adults living in nursing facilities can move home with MDCP services
- Children who meet medical fragility criteria can get MDCP through a limited nursing facility stay
- Eligibility is redetermined every year and sometimes individuals lose eligibility and should appeal the decision
- Children on MDCP automatically transition into STAR + Plus waiver on their 21st birthday

# CLASS

# CLASS – Community Living Assistance and Support Services

- Alternative to ICF/IID/RC for children and adults
- Does not consider parental income/Individual Income 3x SSI
- Developmental disability that occurred before the age of 22
- Primary disability must be a related condition (other than intellectual disability)
- Cost cap is 200% of cost of ICF/IID/RC or $114,736.08 per year. There is currently a proposal to increase the amount effective 9/1/25 to 210% or $149,774.07

# CLASS – Community Living Assistance and Support Services

| Services | |
|---|---|
| Residential Habilitation Transportation | Supported Employment/Employment Assistance |
| Therapy – OT, PT, ST | Specialized Therapies<br>Massage, HIPPO, music, recreation and aquatic therapy |
| Home Modifications<br>$10,000 life-time limit<br>$300 for annual repair/maintenance | Adaptive Aids/Vehicle Modifications/Dental<br>$10,000 per year |
| Nursing | Respite<br>Up to 30 days per year |
| Behavioral Support including ABA | Prevocational Services |
| Support Family Services | Transition Assistance Services |
| Auditory Integration/Enhancement Therapy | Cognitive Rehab Therapy |
| Dietary | |

# J’s Benefits

Physician/Hospital, Prescriptions, DME (wheelchair, wound vac), Private Duty Nursing, Personal Care Services/Community First Choice, Supplies, Therapies
+
Case Mgt., Home Mods, Adaptive Aids

# Important Facts About CLASS

- There is a way for children and adults to leave nursing facilities and get CLASS
- People who have high needs can ask to go over the yearly cost cap
- Adults over 21 in the waiver get medical services through STAR Plus Managed Care and Children in the waiver get medical services through STAR Kids
- List of Related Conditions - https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/doing-business-with-hhs/providers/health/icd10-codes.pdf

# HCS

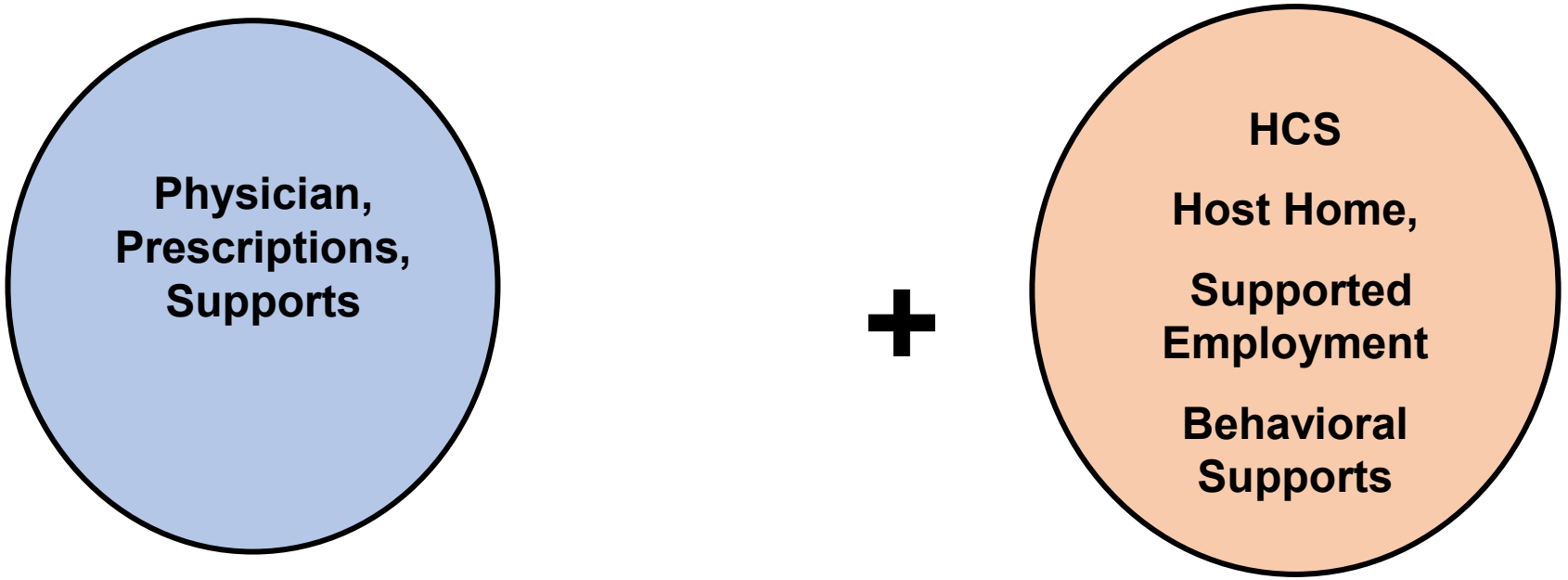
# HCS – Home and Community-Based Services

- Alternative to ICF/IID for children and adults
- Does not consider parental income/Individual Income 3x SSI
- Developmental disability with primary diagnosis of intellectual disability and an IQ below 70 or with a Related Condition and an IQ below 75
- IQ is not considered for those individuals who meet medical necessity for nursing facility
- Yearly Cost Cap based on Level of Need:
  - $167,468 for LON 1,5,8 (Proposal to increase to $169,182 effective 9/1/25)
  - $168,615 for LON 6 (Proposal to increase to $211,822 effective 9/1/25)
  - $305,877 for LON 9 (Proposal to increase to $392,318 effective 9/1/25)

# HCS – Home and Community-Based Services

| Services | |
|---|---|
| Residential Assistance<br>3 and 4 bed group homes<br>Host Home – No more than 3 people | Supported Employment/Employment Assistance |
| Minor Home Modifications<br>$7,500 lifetime limit<br>$300 annual maintenance/repair | Adaptive Aids<br>$10,000 per year |
| Therapy – ST, OT, PT | Individualized Skills and Socialization |
| Nursing | Respite - 300 units or 30 days |
| Behavioral Support including ABA | Dental - $2,000 |
| Audiology | Supported Home Living – Transportation |
| Transition Assistance Services | Cognitive Rehab Therapy |
| Dietary | Supported Home Living - Transportation |

# M’s Benefits


Physician, Prescriptions, Supports
+
HCS
Host Home,
Supported Employment
Behavioral Supports

# Important Facts About HCS

- There is a way for individuals to leave nursing facilities and get HCS regardless of their IQ
- There is a way for individuals to get HCS if they are at risk of going into a nursing facility
- There is a way for individuals to get HCS if they are in a crisis
- People who have high needs can ask to go over the yearly cost cap
- Day Habilitation recently changed to Individualized Supports and Services
- Adults over 21 in the waiver get medical services through STAR Plus Managed Care and Children in the waiver get medical services through STAR Kids

# TxHmL

# TxHmL – Texas Home Living

Alternative to ICF/IID for children and adults

**Does** consider parental income, must have Medicaid or SSI

Developmental disability with IQ below 70 or a Related Condition and an IQ below 75

Yearly Cost Cap is $17,000

(Proposal to increase to $31,684 effective 9/1/25)

# TxHmL – Texas Home Living

| Services | |
|---|---|
| Community Support - Transportation | Supported Employment/Employment Assistance |
| Minor Home Modifications<br>$7,500 lifetime limit<br>$300 per year maintenance/repair | Adaptive Aids<br>$10,000 per year |
| Therapy – ST, OT, PT | Individualized Skills and Socialization |
| Nursing | Respite<br>No limit- based on need |
| Behavioral Support including ABA | Dental<br>$1,000 per year |
| Audiology | Dietary |
| | |

# Important Facts About TxHmL

- TxHmL has a large number of services, but a lower dollar amount of services
- HHSC has been evaluating whether to move all or some of the TxHmL services to managed care.
- Adults over 21 in the waiver get medical services through STAR Plus Managed Care and Children in the waiver get medical services through STAR Kids

# DBMD

# Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities

- Alternative to ICF/IID/RC for children and adults
- Individuals who are deaf/blind with a third disability resulting in demonstrated need for daily habilitation
- Does not consider parental income/Individual Income 3x SSI
- Yearly cost cap is 200% of cost of ICF/IID/RC or $114,736.08 per year. There is currently a proposal to increase the amount effective 9/1/25 to 210% or $149,774.07

# Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities - Services

| Services | |
|---|---|
| Residential Habilitation/Assisted Living | Supported Employment/Employment Assistance |
| Home Modifications<br>$10,000 lifetime limit<br>$300 year repair/maintenance | Adaptive Aids/Vehicle Modifications<br>$10,000 per year |
| Therapy – ST, OT, PT | Individualized Skills and Socialization |
| Nursing | Respite<br>30 units (days) |
| Behavioral Support including ABA | Audiology |
| Environmental Accessibility | Intervenor |
| Orientation and Mobility | Chore Provider |
| Dental<br>$2,500 Dental and $2,000 Sedation | |

# Important Facts About DBMD

- Way for individuals to leave nursing facilities and get DBMD
- People who have high needs can ask to go over the yearly cost cap
- Adults over 21 in the waiver get medical services through STAR Plus Managed Care and Children in the waiver get medical services through STAR Kids

YES

# YES - Youth Empowerment Services

- Alternative to in-patient psychiatric care for children and adolescents ages 3 through 18
- Must meet medical necessity and level of care criteria for inpatient psychiatric admission including, including risk of self-harm, risk of severe disruptive or aggressive behavior
- Does not consider parental income/Individual Income 3x SSI

# YES - Youth Empowerment Services

| Services | |
|---|---|
| Community Living Supports | Respite<br>720 hours (30 days) |
| Home Modifications<br>$5,000 per year combined with adaptive aids | Adaptive Aids<br>$5,000 per year combined with Minor Home Mods |
| Therapy<br>Animal Assisted Therapy, Music Therapy, Art Therapy, Recreation Therapy | Para-Professional Services |
| Supportive Family Based Alternatives | Family Supports |
| Transitional Services | Non-Medical Transportation |
| Nutritional Counseling | Supported Employment |
| Employment Assistance | |

# Important Facts About YES

- YES waiver is statewide

- Children with a qualifying primary mental health condition and autism may qualify for waiver services

# STAR+Plus Waiver

# Star+Plus Home and Community-Based Services

- Alternative to nursing facilities
- Adults 21 years or older
- Income limit is 300% of SSI
- Individuals who have SSI and meet waiver eligibility can get services with no wait.
- Cost cap is up to 202% of the individual's Resource Utilization Groups (RUG) https://pfd.hhs.texas.gov/sites/rad/files/documents/long-term-svcs/2015/2015-nf-rates.pdf

# Star+Plus Home and Community-Based Services

| Services | |
|---|---|
| Personal Assistance Services – MAO Population | Supported Employment/Employment Assistance |
| Home/Vehicle Modifications<br>$7,500 lifetime with $300 per year repair/maintenance | Adaptive Aids/Medical Supplies<br>$10,000 per year |
| Therapy - ST, OT, PT | Home Delivered Meals |
| Nursing | Respite – 30 days |
| Protective Supervision | Emergency Response Services |
| Adult Foster Care | Dental<br>$5,000; exception to cap may be made if services of oral surgeon is required (up to an additional $5000) |
| Transition Assistance Services | Assisted Living Facility |
| Cognitive Rehab Therapy | |

# Important Facts About STAR+Plus Waiver

- Young adults who turn 21 and who age out of MDCP or Medicaid Private Duty Nursing move into STAR+Plus waiver  with no wait
- Individuals who have SSI automatically get STAR+Plus waiver services with no wait, higher income individuals enter from waiting list
- There is a mechanism for individuals to leave a nursing home and move into STAR+Plus
- Individuals in STAR+Plus whose needs exceed the individual cost cap can request from HHSC the ability to exceed the cost cap

# Interest List Contact Information

| Waiver | Contact Information |
|---|---|
| MDCP | 1-877-438-5658 |
| CLASS | 1-877-438-5658 |
| HCS | Local Authority<br>https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/search.cfm<br>Ask for IDD Services Division |
| Texas Home Living | Local Authority<br>https://apps.hhs.texas.gov/contact/search.cfm<br>Ask for IDD Services Division |
| DB/MD | 1-877-438-5658 |
| STAR+Plus Waiver | 1-877-438-5658 |
| YES | https://hhs.texas.gov/services/mental-health-substance-use/childrens-mental-health/yes-waiver<br>Click link for YES Waiver Inquiry Hotline<br>https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/mental-health-substance-use/yes-waiver-inquiry-line.pdf |

# Your Texas Benefits Self-Service Portal for Medicaid Waiver Interest Lists

**Background**

- Interest List Questionnaire updated to align with requirements in H.B. 3720
- Your Texas Benefits (YTB) updated to allow individuals or their representative to add an interest list request and update information in the Community Service Interest List (CSIL) system

**Portal**

- Self-service options are access through www.yourtexasbenefits.com(YTB)
- Add interest list requests for waiver programs, except Home and Community-based Services (HCS) and Texas Home Living (TxHmL)
- After an individual is added to an interest list, the individual has the option to update contact information, such as address, phone or primary or alternate contacts
- View status on interest list
- Update the questionnaire

# Medicaid Buy-In

# Medicaid Buy-In for Children

Medicaid Buy-In for Children can help pay medical bills for children with disabilities. This program helps families who need health insurance, but make too much money to get traditional Medicaid. Families “buy in” to Medicaid by making a monthly payment (premium).

To be in this program a child must:

- Be age 18 or younger
- Meet the same rules for a disability that are used to get SSI
- Live in Texas.
- Be a U.S. citizen or legal resident.
- Not be married.

Get an application form for Medicaid Buy-In for Children (Form H1200-MBIC).

- Go to www.hhsc.state.tx.us. Click on “How to Get Help.” Then click on “Children.”
- Call 2-1-1 and ask to have a Medicaid Buy-In for Children application mailed to you.
- Go to an HHSC benefits office. Call 2-1-1 to find one near you.

# Medicaid Buy-In for Adults

**What is the Medicaid Buy-In program?**

Allows certain people with disabilities who work to buy into Medicaid.

The program offers low-cost Medicaid health care services — including some community-based services and supports. Some people might have to pay a monthly fee.

**Who can be in the Medicaid Buy-In program?**

A person who:

Has a disability.

Is working.

Lives in Texas.

Does not live in a state institution or nursing home all the time.

**Fill out an application form. You can get it one of these ways:**

Download the form: http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/Help/1200-MBI-eng.pdf

Call 2-1-1 and ask to have an H1200 form mailed to you.

Pick up a form at an HHSC benefits office. Call 2-1-1 or 1-877-541-7905 (toll-free) to find one near you.

# For More Information

Elizabeth Tucker
EveryChild, Inc.
512-342-0543
etucker@everychildtexas.org