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IOWA HOME-AND-COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVER PROGRAM

The Iowa Home-and-Community-Based-Services (HCBS) Waiver Program provides funding and individualized support to keep children in their own homes who would otherwise require care in a medical institution. The three HCBS waivers used for children with complex medical needs include the Health and Disability (HD) Waiver, Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver, and Brain Injury (BI) Waiver. Once on a waiver, children can continue to receive waiver services through adulthood if care needs continue to meet eligibility criteria.

WAIVER ELIGIBILITY: Eligibility is determined based upon the unique needs of the child. Care needs often considered include safety and monitoring requirements, assistance with activities of daily living, frequency of therapies, and the need for community-based services beyond those covered by traditional Medicaid plans.

- **HD WAIVER:** Children with a variety of medical needs and physical disabilities may qualify.
- **ID WAIVER:** This waiver requires evaluation by a psychologist or psychiatrist and a formal diagnosis of an intellectual disability.
- **BI WAIVER:** History of an acquired brain injury such as a stroke, brain tumor, or injury from trauma, infection, or low oxygen levels is required. Congenital malformations do not meet eligibility criteria.

APPLYING FOR A WAIVER

TIMING: You can apply for a HCBS waiver on behalf of your child at any time. It is recommended to begin the application process as soon as you are considering participation in a waiver program, as wait lists are often several years long.

SELECTING A WAIVER: You can apply for multiple waivers at once and your child can be placed on all applicable wait lists. When a waiver slot becomes available, your child can utilize this waiver while remaining on additional wait lists. When a slot later becomes available for another waiver, you can then choose whether you would like to switch to the other waiver.

VERIFYING ELIGIBILITY: Eligibility for the ID and BI waivers does not need to be proven until a waiver slot is available. Eligibility for the HD waiver will be confirmed through the initial application process.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Waiver applications are submitted through the State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. Your social worker can provide further information regarding HCBS waivers and assist you with your application.

Social Worker Name: _____

Social Worker Phone Number: _____

blankchildrens.org/shine



Blank Children's Hospital
UnityPoint Health

A department of UnityPoint Health - Des Moines - Iowa Methodist Medical Center



NOTIFICATIONS

- A denial letter will be received for each waiver. This actually indicates placement on the waiver wait list, as no slots are currently available.
- One mailing will be received indicating that the waiver slot is open. This must be returned promptly via certified mail to secure your child’s slot. Please verify that the correct mailing address remains on file.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE HCBS WAIVER PROGRAM

Participation in the HCBS waiver program includes automatic Medicaid eligibility, even if your child was previously determined to be ineligible for Medicaid coverage. The HD, BI, and ID waivers all include respite care. Opportunities for flexible and individualized support include consumer-directed attendant care (CDAC) and the consumer choices option (CCO). The specific benefits vary based upon waiver type and the needs of the child. A waiver case manager will be assigned to assist with accessing services.

COMPARISON OF WAIVER SERVICES

	BI WAIVER	HD WAIVER	ID WAIVER
Home and Vehicle Modifications	Annual Benefit	Annual Benefit	Maximum Lifetime Benefit
Specialized Medical Equipment	Yes	No	No
Supported Community Living	Yes	No	Yes
Residential Facility	No	No	Yes

DEFINITIONS

CCO: An optional way to utilize waiver resources in which approved waiver services are converted to more flexible funds rather than paid directly to service or supply providers. You then work with provided financial management services to create an individualized plan to hire caregivers and purchase goods and services within the overall CCO budget.

CDAC SERVICES: Assistance with a variety of care tasks including bathing, dressing, ambulating, toileting, feeding, and routine respiratory care. CDAC providers can include extended family members, friends, and neighbors who provide hands-on assistance.

RESPITE: Respite care provides all of the necessary care for your child for a predetermined time frame. This creates time to attend to personal or family needs and to rest and recharge.

SUPPORTED COMMUNITY LIVING: Services that provide for the daily living needs of the child including assistance with personal hygiene and activities of daily living, self-care and communication training, and opportunities for social and community involvement.

**The information in this hand-out is adapted from the waiver-specific informational packets, CDAC Member Handbook, and the HCBS Provider Manual available from the State of Iowa Department of Health and Human Services at hhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hcbs/waivers. Please visit with your family’s social worker for further information and for assistance with the waiver application.*