

HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

What are Home and Community Based Services?

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) focus on providing quality Medicaid funded services to eligible individuals in their homes and communities. HCBS is working to create a sustainable, person-driven long-term support system for people with disabilities, the elderly, and people with chronic conditions so they have positive outcomes, such as independence and health. HCBS endeavors to ensure a delivery service system that promotes opportunities for people:

- To receive quality services that respect personal dignity and choice.
- To decide where and with whom they live.
- To have control over the services they receive and who provides those services.
- To work and earn money, and to include friends and supports to help them participate in community life.

Medicaid funded Home and Community Based Services available in WV are:

Aged and Disabled Waiver Program (ADW)

Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waiver Program (IDDW)

Serious Emotional Disturbance Waiver Program (SEDW)

Traumatic Brain Injury Program (TBIW)

Personal Care Services

Children with Disabilities Community Service Program (CDCSP)

Other State Services include:

Take Me Home WV, RYPAS, Independent Living Services, and Supported Employment.

CONCERNS

There is a strong demand for HCBS services. People with disabilities and older adults are clear that they want to live and participate in their communities. Not all people with disabilities and impairments in need are deemed eligible to receive those services. WV, like many states, does not have the infrastructure in key areas to meet the needs, and maintain cost-effective, person-centered delivery systems. These key areas are workforce, family caregiver support, transportation, and employment.

Workforce and Family Caregiver Support: The quality and effectiveness of HCBS for people with disabilities and aging adults depend upon a high-quality workforce. Inadequate compensation, training, and other factors have left an industry crisis in West Virginia and across the nation. Strategies must be developed to improve supply and retention of direct support workforce, including enhanced payment rates to enable wage increases for direct support professionals; professional development for direct support professionals and supervisors; increased access to respite care options and innovative programs designs along with technologies that better support family caregivers.

Employment: Historically, the majority of people with disabilities have been either unemployed or underemployed, despite their ability and desire to work in the community. In fact, WV has the highest unemployment rate in the country for people with disabilities. WV needs to fully carryout Employment

First principles to support statewide service improvements and expansion of best practices to support competitive integrated employment for people with disabilities.

Transportation: People with disabilities and aging adults lack sufficient access to mass transit, paratransit, ride shares, modifications to their own vehicles, and other modes of transportation needed for everyday life. As we know, transportation is a barrier for much of rural West Virginia. This is especially true for people with disabilities.

Housing: People with disabilities and aging adults face a housing crisis which includes a lack of available accessible housing and lack of coordination among systems. People with disabilities need resources to assess and expand the supply and availability of affordable, accessible, and integrated housing for people receiving HCBS. New builds need to go beyond ADA compliance by adopting “universal design” principles.

Accountability: People with disabilities need to live safely and free from abuse and neglect in the communities of their choice. West Virginia needs to come into compliance with the HCBS Settings Rule and attain higher accountability through strong monitoring and enforcement requirements that hold providers accountable and that prosecutes those individuals and providers that are guilty of abuse and neglect. The State needs to come into compliance with the federal HCBS Settings Rule immediately.

For more information, please contact

Paul Smith FSI Coordinator at paul.smith@wvsilc.org

Jerry Boyko Exec. Director WVSILC at jerry.boyko@wvsilc.org