

NC Department of Health and Human Services

NC Innovations Renewal

A Review for Individuals on the Waiver and their Families

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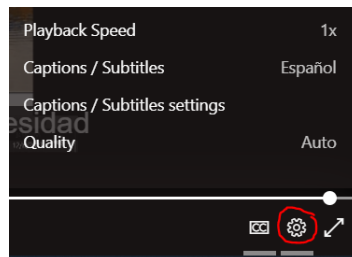
February 29 & March 6, 2024

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AGENDA

What is a Waiver?

Who the Innovations Waiver Serves?

Innovations Waiver Goals and Objectives.

The end of Appendix K Flexibilities and Amended Innovations Waiver.

Renewal of the NC Innovations Waiver Effective July 1, 2024.

What is a Waiver?

The Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program is authorized in §1915(c) of the Social Security Act.

The program permits a state to furnish an array of home and community-based services that assist Medicaid beneficiaries to live in the community and avoid institutionalization.



Allows states to provide services in the community



Allows states to provide services that they would not otherwise be able to provide



Allows states to waive 'state wideness'

This is optional, the Innovations Waiver is a statewide program



Allows states to use 'family of one' when determining eligibility

Who the Innovations Waiver Serves?

The NC Innovations waiver targets individuals who meet the ICF-IID eligibility criteria as defined in the State Medicaid Agency's Clinical Coverage Policy 8P.

ICF/IID Level of Care Criteria

To be Medicaid-certified at an ICF/IID level of care, a beneficiary shall meet the following criteria:

1. Require active treatment necessitating the ICF/IID level of care; and
2. Have a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability per the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual on Mental Disorders, fifth edition, text (DSM-5), or a condition closely related to Intellectual Disability.
 - a. Intellectual disability is a disability characterized by significant limitations both in general intellectual function resulting in, or associated with, deficits or impairments in adaptive behavior. The disability manifests before age 18.

Who does the Innovations Waiver Serve

ICF/IID Level of Care Criteria- continued

2. Persons with closely related conditions refers to individuals who have a severe, chronic disability that meets **ALL** the following conditions:
 - a. Attributable to:
 - I. Cerebral palsy, epilepsy; or
 - II. Any other condition, other than mental illness, closely related to Intellectual Disability, as this condition results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior like that of Intellectually Disabled persons and requires treatment or services like those required for these persons;
 - b. The related condition manifested before age 22;
 - c. Is likely to continue indefinitely; and
 - d. Have Intellectual Disability or a related condition resulting in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following major life activity areas:
 - I. Self-care (ability to take care of basic life needs for food, hygiene, and appearance).
 - II. Understanding and use of language (ability to both understand others and to express ideas or information to others either verbally or non-verbally).
 - III. Learning (ability to acquire new behaviors, perceptions and information and to apply experiences to new situations).
 - IV. Mobility (ambulatory, semi-ambulatory, non-ambulatory)
 - V. Self direction (managing one's social and personal life and ability to make decisions necessary to protect one's life.
 - VI. Capacity for independent living (age-appropriate ability to live without extraordinary assistance).

Goals of the NC Innovations Waiver

To value and support Waiver beneficiaries to be fully functioning members of their community

To promote promising practices that result in real life outcomes for beneficiaries

To offer service options that will facilitate each beneficiary's ability to live in homes of their choice, have employment or engage in a purposeful day of their choice and achieve their life goals

To provide the opportunity for all beneficiaries to direct their services to the extent they choose

To provide educational opportunities and support to foster the development of stronger natural support networks that enable beneficiaries to be less reliant on formal support systems

To ensure the wellbeing and safety of the people served

To maximize beneficiaries' self-determination, self-advocacy and self-sufficiency

To increase opportunities for community integration through work, life-long learning, recreation and socialization

To deliver person centered services that leverage natural, and community supports

To provide quality services and improve outcomes

Objectives of the NC Innovations Waiver

Enhancing the focus on Person Centered Planning Process and aligning services and supports with the Individual Support Plans.

Facilitating living and working in the most integrated setting.

Improving outcome-based quality assurance systems.

NC Innovations Waiver Delivery System

Innovation waiver services are delivered through local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs)

[Vaya Health](#)

Phone: 828-225-2785

Crisis Line: 800-849-6127

Counties Served: Alamance, Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Caswell, Chatham, Cherokee, Clay, Franklin, Graham, Granville, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Person, Polk, Rockingham Rowan, Stokes, Swain, Transylvania, Vance, Watauga, Wilkes, Yancey

[Partners Behavioral Health Management](#)

Office Phone: 704-884-2501

Crisis Line: 888-235-4673

Counties Served: Burke, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Rutherford, Stanly, Surry, Union, Yadkin

[Alliance Health Office](#)

Phone: 919-651-8401

Crisis Line: 800-510-9132

Counties Served: Cumberland, Durham, Harnett, Johnston, Mecklenburg, Orange, Wake

[Trillium Health Resources Office](#) Phone: 866-998-2597

Crisis Line: 877-685-2415

Counties Served: Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Brunswick, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Columbus, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Greene, Guilford, Halifax, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Martin, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Northampton, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Pender, Perquimans, Pitt, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wilson

The End of Appendix K Flexibilities and Amended Innovations Waiver.

Appendix K flexibilities were implemented during the Public Health Emergency to support members and families.

The following flexibilities were made permanent in the Innovations Waiver amendment effective March 1, 2024:

- Allow home delivered meals (up to seven meals per week/one per day).
- Allow real time, two-way interactive audio and video telehealth for Community Living Support; Day Support, Supported Employment; Supported Living and Community Networking to be delivered via telehealth.
- Allow waiver individuals to receive services in alternative locations: hotel, shelter, church or alternative facility-based settings.
- Remove the requirement for the beneficiary to attend the day supports provider once per week.
- Allow the Community Navigator to note individuals may not receive this support unless they are self-directing one or more of their services through the agency with choice or employer of record model.
- Increase the Innovations waiver cap from \$135,000 to \$184,000 per waiver year.
- Allow parents (Relatives) who reside in the home of minor children receiving Community Living and Support to provide this service to their child who has been indicated as having extraordinary support needs up to 40 hours/week.
- Allow Supported Living to be provided by relatives.
- Allow relatives as providers for adult waiver individuals to provide above 56 hours/week, not exceeding 84 hours/week of Community Living and Supports.

Innovations Waiver Renewal

Innovations Waiver Renewal Timeline

Expires: June 30, 2024



Waiver Renewal

Alignment with Initiatives

Changes in the Renewal Waiver include updating services to align with other Departmental Initiatives and to ensure access to Services.

Olmstead

Inclusion Works

Children with Complex Needs (CWCN)

Service designed to provide work incentive counseling and planning available to:

Participants seeking or considering competitive integrated employment

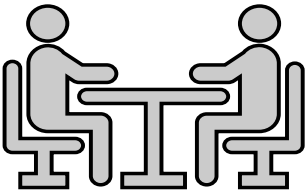
Participants who need problem solving assistance to maintain competitive integrated employment

Remote Supports



Remote supports is a service delivery for beneficiaries:

- 18 years of age or older
- Able to follow verbal prompts
- Desire to enhance independent living skills
- Selecting an alternative option to increase their independence
- Receiving Community Living and Supports and Supported Living



Purpose

- Support beneficiary through staff working from a remote location
- Uses one or more mode of remote support equipment systems
- Enable beneficiaries to exercise greater independence over their lives
- Promote community inclusion

Update Supported Employment definition

- **Supported Employment services assist members with developing skills to seek, obtain and maintain competitive, integrated employment or develop and operate a micro-enterprise.**
- **Employment positions are found based on individual preferences, strengths, and experiences.**
- **Job finding is utilized to support with exploring options for competitive, integrated employment and is not based on placement from a pool of jobs that are available or set aside specifically for individuals with disabilities.**

Relatives as Providers

Clarify language regarding Relatives as Providers (RAPs) for Community Living and Support Services.

- Community Living and Supports service providers may be a relative of an adult waiver member.
- Family members living under the same roof as the waiver individual may provide services. Objective written documentation is required as to why there are no other providers available to provide the services.
- Written justification should be provided in the ISP or separate document.
- Family members who provide these services must meet the same standards as providers who are unrelated to the individual.
- Examples of situations meeting the criteria of no other providers available might include:
 - Individuals living in a remote area unserved or underserved by other providers.
 - Individuals with documented complex medical or behavioral needs, which do not require skilled nursing services, are best met by the family member.
 - Individuals who require services at hard-to-staff hours.
 - Numerous providers have been unsuccessful at appropriately supporting the individual.

**Changes
to
reserved
capacity
slots**

- **Money Follows the Person (MFP)**
- **Military**
- **Children with Complex Needs (CWCN)**

Post Renewal Activities

Allow time for waiver changes to stabilize

Strengthen services using data analysis

Ongoing stakeholder engagement through various workgroups

Wrap-Up

The currently approved Innovations Waiver amendment effective March 1, 2024, is available at <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/nc-innovations-waiver>.

The Waiver renewal is currently posted for Public Comment at [Medicaid State Plan Public Notices | NC Medicaid \(ncdhhs.gov\)](#).

Please send additional renewal feedback to Medicaid.WaiverComment@dhhs.nc.gov

Thank you for your time, ongoing support, and advocacy of the NC Innovations Waiver and the Individuals the waiver serves.