


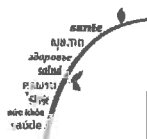
MassHealth

**Waiver Soup:
Opportunities for
Community Living
through Home and
Community Based
Services Waivers**



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**Home and Community Based
Services Waivers (HCBS) Waivers**

Home and Community Based Services Waivers allow states to develop creative alternatives for individuals who would otherwise require care in a nursing facility or hospital.

Massachusetts currently operates 10 HCBS waivers – these waivers serve elders, disabled adults and children with autism spectrum disorders.

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HCBS Waivers **MassHealth**

Massachusetts HCBS Waivers:

- Frail Elder Waiver
- DDS-Intensive Supports
- DDS-Community Living
- DDS-Adult Supports
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Children's Autism Spectrum Disorder
- ABI-Residential Habilitation (ABI-RH)
- ABI-Non-Residential Habilitation (ABI-N)
- MFP-Community Living (MFP-CL)
- MFP-Residential Supports (MFP-RS)

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HCBS Waivers

HCBS waivers are also known as 1915(c) waivers. These waivers allow the State to waive certain requirements that otherwise apply to the Medicaid program and provide flexibility to define:

- The target group of Medicaid beneficiaries to be served
- The maximum number of participants who may be served
- The services available to the target group. Waiver services are always in addition to what is already available through the Medicaid State Plan.

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Common Requirements of all HCBS Waivers

- Participants must be at a facility level of care (LOC), the specific LOC varies by waiver
- Participants must have an ongoing need for waiver services and must receive waiver services at least once a month
- Participants must be able to be safely served in the community with available waiver and state plan services
- MassHealth is responsible for all HCBS waivers, with one of the sister EOHHS agencies having day-to-day responsibility for oversight and operations

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Waiver Eligibility

- There are two parts to waiver eligibility – clinical eligibility and financial eligibility
- Clinical eligibility is determined either by the waiver operating agency or their agent
 - DDS for the DDS Adult ID Waivers and Children's Autism Waiver
 - MRC for the TBI Waiver
 - ASAPs for the Frail Elder Waiver
 - UMass for the ABI and MFP Waivers
- Clinical eligibility is reviewed annually

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Waiver Financial Eligibility

- HCBS Waiver participants must be eligible for MassHealth Standard
- For the adult waivers, special financial eligibility rules apply to waiver participants
- Financial eligibility guidelines for the adult HCBS waivers are:
 - Income ≤ 300% SSI Federal Benefit Rate (FBR) which is currently = \$2,199 a month.
 - Countable assets ≤ \$2,000
- NOTE: If there is a spouse, the spouse's income and assets are not counted.

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Money Follows the Person (MFP) Waivers

MFP Community Living (MFP-CL) Waiver

- Participants who do not need 24 hour supports or supervision
- Access to a variety of community-based waiver services that support the participant to live safely in the community

MFP Residential Supports (MFP-RS) Waiver

- Participants who require supervision and staffing 24/7 and receive services in provider-operated and staffed settings
- Residential supports include: residential habilitation in a group home serving no more than 4 individuals, assisted living services, and shared living-24 hour supports

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Money Follows the Person (MFP) Waivers

In order to qualify for the MFP Waivers an applicant must:

- Be living in a nursing home or long-stay hospital for at least 90 consecutive days, excluding Medicare rehabilitation days;
- Be 18 years old or older and be disabled, or be age 65 or older;
- Meet the requirements for participation in the MFP Demonstration
- Meet the level of care criteria specified in the waiver application
- Transition to an MFP qualified residence in the community.

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Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Waivers

- ABI Non-Residential Habilitation (ABI-N) Waiver is for those individuals who do not require 24 hour supports and supervision in the community but need community-based waiver services
- ABI Residential Habilitation (ABI-RH) Waiver is for those individuals who require 24 hour supervision and staffing in a provider-operated and staffed setting
- Waiver eligibility includes: have been in a nursing facility or chronic disease or rehabilitation hospital for 90 days or longer at time of application;
 - Has an acquired brain injury diagnosis; and
 - Sustained the brain injury at age 22 or older

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Frail Elder Waiver (FEW)

- The Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) is operating agency
- Serves participants age 60 and over at a nursing facility level of care
- Participants age 60 thru 64 must be disabled as defined in MassHealth regulation 130 CMR 501.000
- Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs) conduct Level of Care determinations, provide case management and manage waiver provider enrollment and oversight.
- FEW participants can choose to enroll in SCO to receive all waiver and state plan services. This is the only waiver that allows enrollment in both an HCBS waiver and in SCO. This option is used to allow participants needing the expanded income rules of the waiver to access SCO.

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Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Adult Waivers

DDS operates three HCBS waivers for adults with intellectual disability age 22 and older who are at an ICF-ID Level of Care

DDS Intensive Supports Waiver

- For participants with high, intensive need for supports due to the severity of their functional limitations, behavioral, and/or medical needs

DDS Community Living Waiver

- For participants with moderate level of support needs, i.e. less than 24 hour supervision or support per day

DDS Adult Supports Waiver

- For participants with less intensive need for supports

These waivers offer opportunities for participant directions (both budget and employer authority)

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Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver

- The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) is operating agency
- Participants must be age 18 years old or older and be disabled, or be age 65 or older;
- Participants must be at a nursing facility or hospital level of care
- Participants must have a traumatic brain injury (i.e. a brain injury caused by external force)
- Waiver is limited to 100 participants per year

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Autism Waiver

- The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is operating agency
- Serves children birth through age 8 with an autism spectrum disorder who are at an ICF-ID Level of Care
- Services in this waiver are all self-directed by a parent or other legal guardian
- Waiver enrollment is limited to 325 participants per year

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<p>Waivers that only serve participants being discharged from facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MFP-Community Living (MFP-CL) ■ MFP-Residential Supports (MFP-RS) ■ ABI-Residential Habilitation (ABI-RH) ■ ABI-Non-Residential Habilitation (ABI-N) 	<p>Waivers that serve participants who are either being discharged from facilities or are currently living in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Frail Elder Waiver ■ DDS-Intensive Supports ■ DDS-Community Living ■ DDS-Adult Supports ■ Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) ■ Autism Waiver
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Person-Centered Planning

- Every participant in an HCBS waiver will have a waiver case manager (sometimes called a service coordinator).
- Person-Centered Planning ensures that the participant is at the center of all planning. The planning process and the service plan reflect the goals and values of the participant, and not the Case Manager or other agencies or people. The Case Manager acts as facilitator for the Person-Centered planning process.

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Waiver Services

- The waiver case manager is responsible for arranging, authorizing, and overseeing the delivery of the participant's waiver services and other community long-term care services
- The CM will meet with the participant regularly to review their service plan and make any necessary changes.
- The services in each waiver vary and are designed to meet the particular needs of the population served in that waiver
- Waiver services complement the services available through the Medicaid state plan

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Waiver Services – Residential Services

- Residential Habilitation – provides care, supervision and skills training in provider operated setting.
- Shared Living – participants live with a caregiver who provides skills training, assistance with personal care and household tasks.
- Assisted Living Services – personal care and household tasks in a qualified and certified assisted living residence.

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Waiver Services – Day & Employment Services

- Day Services – structured, site based, group programs that provide socialization, assistance with functional and prevocational skills, etc.
- Prevocational Services – services to prepare a participant for paid or unpaid employment, including attention span, task completion, attendance, etc.
- Supported Employment Services – training and ongoing support to maintain paid employment.

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Waiver Services – In Home Supports

- Personal Care – physical assistance and supervision with bathing, dressing, toileting and eating.
- Homemaker, Chore, Laundry and Grocery Shopping Services
- Home Delivered Meals

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Waiver Services – Skills Training

- Individual Support and Community Habilitation – provides assistance to develop, maintain and maximize independent functioning and skill development
- Peer Support – mentoring and training about self-advocacy and community participation

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Additional Waiver Services

- Occupational, Physical and Speech Therapy – maintenance therapies that allow a participant to optimize functioning
- Transportation Services – transportation to participate in waiver services and in other community activities
- Assistive Technology and Specialized Medical Equipment – equipment that increases or maintains functional ability, including communication devices

Additional Waiver Services

- Home Modifications – adaptations to the participant's home to make it accessible and to maximize independence
- Vehicle Modifications – adaptations to the participant or primary caregiver's vehicle including van lifts, ramps, specialized seating or safety equipment
- Transitional Assistance Services – set-up expenses for individuals moving from a nursing home or other facility to the community, including essential household furnishings, security deposits, etc.

NOTE: not all waiver services are included in every waiver

Finding the Right Waiver
Some questions to help guide the decision

- Is the applicant currently living in the community or are they in a nursing home or other medical facility?
 - Applicants for the MFP-CL, MFP-RS, ABI-RH & ABI-N waivers must be in a nursing home or other medical facility.
 - The Frail Elder Waiver, DDS Adult Waivers and TBI Waiver can serve people applying while living in the community as well as those coming from a medical facility.

Finding the Right Waiver
Some questions to help guide the decision

- How old is the applicant?
 - If the applicant is between 18 – 21 consider the MFP-CL, MFP-RS, or TBI Waiver.
 - If the applicant is between 22 – 59 consider the DDS Adult Waivers, ABI-RH or ABI-N in addition to the MFP-CL, MFP-RS or TBI Waiver.
 - If the applicant is age 60 or over consider any of the adult waivers. None of them have an upper age limit.

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Finding the Right Waiver
Some questions to help guide the decision

- Is the applicant interested in employment?
 - The DDS Adult Waivers, ABI-RH, ABI-N and TBI Waivers all offer Supported Employment services designed to assist a participant in getting and keeping a job.
 - The MFP-CL and MFP-RS Waivers offer Prevocational services in addition to Supported Employment services. Prevocational services are designed to build the skills necessary for a participant to consider seeking employment.

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Finding the Right Waiver
Some questions to help guide the decision

- Would the applicant benefit from coordination of behavioral health and substance abuse treatment services?
 - Participants in the MFP-CL and MFP-RS Waivers have access to coordination of these services through the Managed Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP). Through MBHP participants have access to a wide range of diversionary behavioral health services.

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Finding the Right Waiver
Some questions to help guide the decision

- Does the applicant need a residential service?
 - The DDS Intensive Supports Waiver, TBI, MFP-RS and ABI-RH Waivers include Residential Habilitation services in a group home setting and Shared Living services. MFP-RS and ABI-RH also include Assisted Living services.

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Finding the Right Waiver

- The 10 options for accessing HCBS waiver services provide a rich resource for MassHealth members in the Commonwealth.
- The services in each waiver vary and are designed to meet the particular needs of the population served in that waiver. Consider the applicants specific service needs to help choose the most appropriate waiver.
- Past or current affiliation with the agency providing case management for the waiver may also help applicants in selecting which waiver will best meet their needs.

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For more information regarding MassHealth HCBS Waivers:

Money Follows the Person Waivers (Includes brochures and applications)
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/insurance/more-programs/mfp-demo-and-waivers/money-follows-the-person-waivers.html>

Acquired Brain Injury Waivers (Includes brochures and applications)
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/insurance/more-programs/acquired-brain-injury-waivers.html>

Frail Elder Waiver - Call the local ASAP.
<http://contactus.600ageinfo.com/FindAgency.aspx>

Department of Developmental Services Adult and Children's Autism Waivers (includes brochures and applications)
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/go/department/dds/>

Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver and Brain Injury and Statewide Specialized Community Services <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/disability-services/service-by-type/traid-injury/biwcs.html>

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