

Services Available Under the Mental Retardation Medicaid Waiver

Residential Options

Residential Training and Supervision - This service is provided in an agency operated site like a group home or personal care home. It is usually a 24 hour / 7 day a week service. The training offered is tailored to the individual consumer. It can include training in self care (dressing, bathing, tooth brushing, hair care, etc), independent living skills (cooking, shopping, vacuuming, laundry, making the bed, etc), communication skills (answering the telephone, understanding multi-step instructions, answering questions, carrying on a conversation, etc), leisure skills (exercising, going to the park, playing sports, accessing community recreational facilities like movies, game rooms, etc), enhancing self direction (making choices, decreasing inappropriate behaviors, etc)

Personal Support - This can be a similar service to Residential Training and Supervision, but it occurs in the family's home or the individual's own home. It can also be in a home provider's home. Personal support can be from 1-24 hours a day depending upon what the individual needs. Personal support can provide the same training opportunities as Residential Training and Supervision.

Day Services Options

Day Habilitation – This is a service that is offered in a facility or in the community. It is non-work in nature. It can target training in the areas of communication skills, social skills, leisure skills, mobility skills, or self help skills. There is a daily rate or an hourly rate.

Day Support Services – This service option has several variables. It can be 30 hours of community based day habilitation activities. It could offer 20 hours of facility based services and 20 hours of community based services. It could offer 60-120 hours of facility based services with 6-12 hours of that being community based services. Day Support Services can be a combination of day habilitation, prevocational, or supported employment.

Supported Employment – This service offers individuals the opportunity to work a minimum of 80 hours a month in the community. It can provide job development, job coaching, and long-term follow-up to make sure the job is going well.

Other Support Services

Specialized Medical Supplies – This can provide a range of supplies such as disposable diapers, chux pads, latex gloves, wipes, disinfectant cleaners, etc. There is a yearly cap of \$1,659.84.

Specialized Medical Equipment – This service can provide equipment that is not otherwise covered by Medicaid. It might include certain types of bath chairs, ceiling track lift systems, communication systems, customized molded chair seats, etc. There is a \$13,474.76 lifetime cap.

Personal Emergency Response Systems – The waiver will pay for installation and the monthly fee for a lifeline type emergency response system.

Environmental Modifications – The waiver can pay for home modifications that are not permanent structures. It could pay for a ramp, widening of doorways, etc. There is a \$10,400 lifetime cap.

Vehicle Adaptation - This service can pay for vehicle adaptations such as wheelchair brackets, special seat belt harnesses, portable ramps. There is a cap of \$3,120 which means it usually is not enough to pay for a wheelchair lift.

Respite Care – The waiver will pay for up to 52 days a year of respite care. The Respite can be done in the person's home or away from home. Respite can be done on a daily or hourly basis.

Home Based Services - The regular state Medicaid plan covers some of these services, but if a person receiving the waiver needs more than is offered in the regular state Medicaid plan then they can receive them through the waiver. This could include up to 290 visits a year of any combination of skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, or home health aide.

Natural Support Enhancement – This is a new service under the waiver. It can pay for supports for the individual to become more linked into their community. For example, it could pay for a YMCA membership, an art class, swimming lessons, or karate classes. It could pay for a support person to go along to assist the individual so they could participate in the activity. If the person is a sports fan, it could pay for tickets so they could attend the sporting event. It can also pay for in-home supports so other people are more familiar with the care involved other than just family. It can pay for respite care without the 52 day limit. It is a flexible service that is targeted at getting people out into the community.

Natural Support Therapies – If a person needs special therapies or behavioral or nutritional interventions, it can be paid for through Natural Support Therapies. For example, if you needed a speech therapist to teach the Sunday School teacher how to use the communication system, it could be funded through this service. If you needed a physical therapist to work with the YMCA swimming instructor to show them how to support a child with cerebral palsy in the swimming pool, it could be paid for through this service. If a person had challenging behaviors and you needed someone with expertise in behavior support plans, it could be arranged for and paid through Natural Support Therapies.

Consumer Directed Natural Support Enhancement - This is a new option that should be available beginning the first of the year. The individual who receives natural support enhancement services or their family representative can request to direct these services rather than use a traditional provider. They would be the employer of record and would hire and fire their support workers. There will be financial support services to pay the bills for both goods and services under this option.