

Home and Community-Based (HCBS) Waivers Slot Waiting Lists

2023 Legislative Session

BACKGROUND

HCBS Waivers

Medicaid's HCBS waivers are programs designed to meet the care needs of people in their home or community, rather than in an institutional setting. Waivers provide a variety of services and supports that are not available through traditional Medicaid. Iowa currently has seven HCBS waivers, targeting the following groups:

- AIDS/HIV
- Brain Injury (BI)
- Children's Mental Health (CMH)
- Elderly (EW)
- Health and Disability (HD)
- Intellectual Disability (ID)
- Physical Disability (PD)

Note: Members can only be active on one waiver at a time.

Waiting Lists

The number of persons approved for a HCBS waiver is subject to both the number approved in the CMS waiver application and the number that is able to be funded through the Department's budget. Iowa Medicaid staff work with the Fiscal Management Unit to identify the number of slots available for each waiver at any given point in time. When the number of applicants exceeds the number of available slots, the applicant's name is placed on a waiting list. Currently, five of the seven HCBS Waiver programs have waiting lists and the general information on each of the waiting lists can be found at: [Home- and Community-Based Services \(HCBS\) Waiver Program | Iowa Department of Human Services](#). The number of enrolled waiver members is reviewed monthly to determine if there are available slots that can be awarded to those who have been placed on a waiting list. When available slots are identified, they are issued to applicants at the top of the waiting list.

Once a slot is issued, the applicant retains that slot as they work with the Department's Income Maintenance Worker to process the application and determine if the applicant meets the eligibility criteria. Applicants must also have a needs assessment completed and meet the required level of care criteria for the waiver as determined by the Medical Services Unit.

If the applicant is approved, the slot awarded remains assigned to that member until they no longer meet waiver eligibility and are cancelled.

If the applicant is found to be ineligible for the waiver, the slot is returned and released to the next applicant on the waiting list during the following month's slot release.

DISCUSSION

Current Numbers

Numbers are as of December 30, 2022 and include RCS.

Waiver Slots	# Approved by CMS: Point in Time	# Fiscal: Funded Through Budget	#Currently Enrolled
Brain Injury	1,625	1,438	1,445
Children's Mental Health	1,333	1,287	1,082
Health & Disability	2,950	2,321	2,262
Intellectual Disability	13,369	12,931	12,052
Physical Disability	1,317	1,067	975

Current Waiting List

Status of waiting lists as of December 30, 2022

Waiver	# On Waiting List	Next App. Date	Time on Waiting list
Brain Injury	2,483	4/3/2017	5 years 8 months 27 days
Children's Mental Health	960	02/11/2022	10 months 19 days
Health & Disability	6,862	7/24/2018	4 years 5 months 6 days
Intellectual Disability	5,514	7/6/2018	4 years 5 months 24 days
Physical Disability	2,161	03/30/2021	1 year 9 months

Demographics

- 5,236 (37%) of the unduplicated 14,022 individuals on a waiting list are on two or more lists
- 1,584 (11%) of individuals on a waiting list are not eligible for traditional Medicaid services
- Of the 12,438 individuals who are on Medicaid:
 - 219 are in Hawki
 - 914 are in fee-for-service
 - 6,664 are with Amerigroup
 - 4,641 are with Iowa Total Care
- 495 are in a facility setting (nursing facility, ICF/ID, PMIC, etc.)
- 2,383 are already on another waiver while also on a waiting list

Waiting List Exceptions

ENAP/NA

There are three exceptions to members going onto the waiting list based solely on their application date. Emergency Needs Assessment (ENA) for the BI Waiver, Priority Needs

Assessment (PNA) for the ID Waiver, and Reserved Capacity Slots (RCS) for the BI, CMH, and ID waivers.

For the ENA and PNA processes, letters are sent to applicants at the time they are placed on the waiting list. If the member has emergent or urgent needs, they are able to return the form (470-5583 Brain Injury Waiver Emergency Need Assessment or 470-5110 HCBS ID Waiver Priority Needs Assessment) and they will be evaluated to see how many criteria that they meet. If they are found to have emergent or urgent needs, they are moved to the top of the waiting list. The position on the waiting list is based on the total number of the criteria they met, with emergent needs superseding urgent needs.

The Department is currently looking to incorporate a process of identifying emergent and urgent needs for all waivers with a waiting list. This will require rule changes as well as amendments to each of the approved waivers with CMS.

Reserved Capacity Slots (RCS)

Reserved Capacity Slots are available for the ID, BI, and CMH waivers. These are waiver slots that are reserved specifically for members who are preparing to move from institutional settings into community-based settings. Each category has a set number of these slots available to members each waiver year.

ID Waiver

- For members residing in an ICF/ID
 - 125 slots, Waiver year July 1 – June 30
- For minors seeking Residential Based Supported Community Living (RBSCCL)
 - 75 slots, Waiver year July 1- June 30

BI Waiver

- For members residing in an ICF/ID, NF, SNF
 - 30 slots, Waiver year October 1 – September 30
- For members receiving community-based neurobehavioral rehabilitation services (CNRS)
 - 15 slots, Waiver year October 1 – September 30

CMH Waiver

- For members residing in a Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children (PMIC), Mental Health Institute (MHI) and Out of State Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)
 - 20 slots, Waiver year October 1 – September 30

Waiting List Buy-Down Analysis

As noted above, many applicants have been on a waiting list for a very long time, some for over five years. The below calculations show the funding required to buy down each of the current waiting lists.

STATE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
Health AND **Human**
SERVICES

Iowa Department of Human Services						
Waiver Waiting List Buy-Down Analysis						
Dec-22						
	Waiver Type					
Unduplicated Counts	ID	BI	HD	PD	CMH	Total
Currently Medicaid Enrolled Recipients- MCO	5,244	1,689	3,954	168	468	11,523
Currently Medicaid Enrolled Recipients-FFS	313	155	467	29	7	971
Non-Medicaid Recipients	585	329	607	25	32	1,578
Total on Waiting List	6,142	2,173	5,028	222	507	14,072
Estimated Releases Funded by Existing Buy-Down	690	-	-	-	-	690
Adjusted Waiting List	5,452	2,173	5,028	222	507	13,382
Total \$						
Total Cost	\$ 294,133,544	\$ 70,148,148	\$ 91,835,333	\$ 3,719,878	\$ 6,369,390	\$466,206,292
Cost (State Share)	\$ 106,487,632	\$ 25,640,423	\$ 33,663,127	\$ 1,374,928	\$ 2,308,516	\$169,474,626
Average Monthly Cost Differential	\$ 4,496	\$ 2,690	\$ 1,522	\$ 1,396	\$ 1,047	\$ 2,761
Uptake Ratio	45%	43%	27%	19%	33%	
Cost to Buydown Waiver Wait-list based on Uptake Ratio						
	ID	BI	HD	PD	CMH	Total
Total \$ Cost Buy Down Waiver Wait List	\$ 132,360,095	\$ 30,163,703	\$ 24,795,540	\$ 706,777	\$ 2,101,899	\$190,128,013
State \$ Cost Buy Down Wait List	\$ 47,919,434	\$ 11,025,382	\$ 9,089,044	\$ 261,236	\$ 761,810	\$ 69,056,907

Notes regarding the above analysis:

- Waiting list counts were de-duplicated with the assumption that an individual can only enroll in one waiver. The analysis is based on the individual enrolling in the higher cost waiver.
- Fiscal attempted to account for the ongoing SFY23 ID waiver waiting list buy-down. Since we have not yet reached our target, it is assumed a portion of the waiting list is already funded by that additional funding. This means less new funding is required to clear the whole list.

Carrie Malone
HHS Director of Government Relations
cmalone@dhs.state.ia.us