

What are the Benefit Groups for ECF CHOICES?

There are five (5) groups in ECF CHOICES.

The groups vary by target age-range and determined level of care needs.

Group 4: Essential Family Supports

Family Support services are for families caring for a child under the age of 21 who has an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD).

Group 5: Essential Supports for Employment and Independent Living

Essential Support services are for adults age 21 and older who have an I/DD but don't qualify for the level of care in a nursing home.

Group 6: Comprehensive Supports for Employment and Community Living

These services are for adults that are 21 and older who would qualify to get care in a nursing home. (This doesn't mean the person has to receive care in a nursing home. This program provides services at home and in the community. They just need to qualify for nursing home care.)

Group 7: Intensive Behavioral Family Supports

This group is for a small number of children under age 21 who live with their family and have I/DD and severe behavior support needs that place the child or others at risk of serious harm.

Group 8: Comprehensive Behavioral Supports for Employment and Community Living

This group is for a small number of adults who have I/DD and severe behavior support needs and are moving into the community from a place with lots of structure and supervision.

How do I apply for ECF CHOICES?

Fill out Referral Form online at:

perlss.tennCare.tn.gov/externalreferral
(See QR code below)

- If you have TennCare and your health plan is WellPoint, BlueCare, or UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, you can call them for free from the numbers below:

Wellpoint: 833-731-2153

BlueCare: 888-747-8955

UnitedHealthcare: 800-690-1606

- Tell them you need help with a self-referral for Employment and Community First CHOICES. The number is on your TennCare card.
- **What if you're not on TennCare?** You can call your Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Regional Office for free. Tell them you need help with a self-referral for Employment and Community First CHOICES. Their toll-free numbers are listed below:

West Tennessee Regional Office (866) 372-5709

Middle Tennessee Regional Office (800) 654-4839

East Tennessee Regional Office (888) 531-9876



Spanish: Español

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-259-0701 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298)

Kurdish: کوردی

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Do you need help with your health care, talking with us, or reading what we send you? Call us for free at: 1-855-259-0701 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298)

We do not treat people in a different way because of their race, color, birth place, language, age, disability, religion, or sex.

To see if you qualify, contact your TennCare health plan or call this toll-free number today. 1-866-836-6678

To report different treatment, call our Office of Civil Rights for free at 1-855-857-1673 (TRS 711).



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TennCare Employment & Community First CHOICES (ECF CHOICES)

Long-Term Services and Supports

To see if you qualify, contact the LTSS Help Desk:
877-224-0219

LTSS website: TN.gov/TennCare/long-term-services-supports/employment-and-community-first-choices





What is ECF CHOICES?

The **Right Care** in the **Right Place** at the **Right Time**

TennCare Employment and Community First CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) is a **program for people of all ages who have an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD)**. Employment and Community First CHOICES helps members gain as much independence as possible, including helping members explore the possibility of working.

Services can help people learn skills for work, find a job, and keep a job. This could be a part-time job, a full-time job or self-employment. Working helps people earn money, learn new skills, meet new people, and play an important role in their communities. Work can also help people stay healthy and build self-confidence. Other services help people learn and do things at home and in the community that help people achieve their goals. If a person lives at home with their family, the services help the family support the person to become as independent as possible.



Who qualifies for ECF CHOICES?

To qualify for Employment and Community First CHOICES, a person must be approved medically and financially.

Medical Approval Requirements:

Proof must be provided that the individual has an intellectual disability or other developmental disability.

- An intellectual disability must start before the age of 18.
- A developmental disability must start before the age of 22.

Financial Approval Requirements:

Financial eligibility requirement amounts are subject to change and can vary depending on the person's level of care needs. Current financial eligibility requirements can be found on the TennCare Employment and Community First CHOICES website.

What is Consumer Direction?

Some of the services in Employment and Community First CHOICES can be provided through Consumer Direction. Consumer Direction is a way of getting some of the kinds of supports the person needs. Consumer Direction gives the person more choice and control over WHO gives their support and HOW their support is given. In Consumer Direction, the person with I/DD actually employs the people who give some of their support services—they work for the person receiving services (instead of a provider).

What services are covered in ECF CHOICES?

Services are designed to promote increased independence and create a **"pathway"** to employment, even for people with significant disabilities. All services are offered in the home or community, not in a facility-based setting.

Employment services are available to individuals of working age in all five benefit groups.

Examples of ECF services include:

- Community Integration Support Services
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Personal Assistance
- Enabling Technology
- Family Caregiving Supports
- Employment Supports



To see a full list of services, visit our website: [TN.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/MemberBenefitTable.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/MemberBenefitTable.pdf) (See QR code)

