

TennCare CHOICES in Long-Term Services and Supports

TennCare **CHOICES** offers services to help a person live in their own home or in the community. These services are called Home and Community Based Services or HCBS. The services can be provided in the home, on the job, or other places in the community to assist with daily living activities and allow people to continue living safely at home, and to work and be actively involved in their local communities. CHOICES also provides care in a nursing home if this is needed.

There are three “groups” in the CHOICES program. Each offers benefits based on the support needs and setting where the services are being provided.

Group 1 is for individuals who receive services in a nursing facility.

Group 2 is for seniors (age 65 years or older) or adults (age 21 or older) with physical disabilities who qualify for care in a nursing home but choose to receive their care in a home or community based setting.

Group 3 is for seniors (age 65 or older) or adults (age 21 or older) with physical disabilities who do not qualify for the level of care provided in a nursing home, but without HCBS, are “at risk” of nursing home placement. Group 3 members qualify for a more moderate package of benefits to prevent or delay the need for care in a nursing facility.

Since implementing the CHOICES program in 2010:

- 7,500 fewer people are served in nursing homes each year.
- 9,000 more people have access to in-home care each year.
- The waiting list for in-home care has been eliminated for older adults and adults with physical disabilities.

For more details about the CHOICES program, eligibility requirements and covered services, please visit the TennCare Long-Term Services and Supports website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/long-term-services-supports.html>.



Employment and Community First CHOICES

Employment and Community First CHOICES is a program that promotes employment, community living and community involvement, and as much independence as possible for people of any age who have an intellectual or developmental disability (ID or DD, collectively I/DD). This includes people who need lots of support for intellectual, physical, health or mental health challenges.

Supports & Services

Employment and Community First CHOICES offers **many different kinds of services** to help people with I/DD. Some services include:

- Job Finding and Job Coaching Services
- Community Integration Support Services
- Independent Living Skills Training
- Community Transportation
- Minor Home Modifications
- Personal Assistance

There are also services to support families caring for a family member with I/DD.

A complete list of services is available online at:

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/MemberBenefitTable.pdf>

Program Successes

- More people with ID were enrolled into home and community based services (HCBS) than in the previous 6 years.
- Almost 90% of the people were enrolled in a category focused on employment.
- The annualized cost of HCBS is less than half the average of previous programs for individuals with I/DD.
- Employment outcomes are well above the national average.
- More than 500 employers committed to employing people enrolled in this program.
- Average wages earned by individuals with I/DD in the program exceed minimum wage by more than \$1/hour.

See some of the success stories online at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/long-term-services-supports/employment-and-community-first-choices/success-stories.html>

