

Since July, TennCare and DIDD (the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) have been telling you about a plan to bring all of the programs and services for people with I/DD (intellectual and developmental disabilities) together under DIDD's leadership.

We started with a [concept paper](#) and got feedback. You can read that concept paper here.

Then, we used that feedback to write [another paper](#) with lots more detail. You can read that paper here.

We used that feedback to help write amendments that propose changes to the waivers that allow us to provide home and community-based services. These are:

- The Statewide Waiver
- The CAC (or Comprehensive Aggregate Cap) Waiver
- The Self-Determination Waiver

We plan to send amendments to each of these waivers to the federal government. We'll ask for approval to start making these changes on July 1, 2021.

Before TennCare and DIDD send these changes to the federal government, we want to give you another chance to give us your feedback. [You can read all about the proposed changes here.](#)

A summary of the biggest proposed changes is below.

Please tell us what you think by March 22. [You can do that here.](#) This is a special comment form just for people who receive services and their families.

You don't have to use this form. You can also mail us your comments at:

ATTN: Comments on 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Amendments  
Division of TennCare  
310 Great Circle Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37243

The comment period ends at 4:30 p.m. Central on March 22, 2021.

If you need help to provide comments, you can contact Talley Olson in TennCare's Office of Civil Rights Compliance by phone at (855) 857-1673 or by email at [HCFA.fairtreatment@tn.gov](mailto:HCFA.fairtreatment@tn.gov).

No changes will be made until we have approval from the federal government.

<b>The proposed change:</b>	<b>What it means:</b>
Integration of services provided under the HCBS waivers into managed care	<p>The same TennCare health plan (Wellpoint, BlueCare, or United HealthCare) that pays for your physical and behavioral health care will also pay for your waiver services. But DIDD will still oversee your waiver services.</p> <p>On July 1, you will KEEP the SAME:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support Coordinator (or DIDD Case Manager)</li><li>• Support Plan</li><li>• Services</li><li>• Providers</li></ul> <p>Your Circle of Support will still help write your plan when it's time for a new one. Any changes will be based on your needs and choices.</p> <p>DIDD will still review and approve plans for now. That may change later, but DIDD will still oversee that process.</p> <p>You will still get the services you need to be healthy and safe and reach your goals.</p>

<p>Adding a new eligibility group under the waivers called “Working Disabled”</p>	<p>You could earn more money from working and KEEP TennCare, including waiver services. TennCare won’t count your income up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level, or about \$30,000 per year.</p>
<p>A new Community Informed Choice process for people in the waiver who are thinking about moving to an ICF/IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities)</p>	<p>If you ever want to leave the waiver and get services in an ICF/IID, you’ll get the facts you need to make an informed choice. This will include looking at all of the ways your needs can be met in the community with waiver services. Then, you can decide what’s best for you.</p>
<p>Some changes in how Support Coordination is provided—by your ISC (Independent Support Coordinator) or DIDD Case Manager, including:  a new Employment Informed Choice process</p> <p>Employment Informed Choice will also be part of requests to keep getting Facility-Based Day.</p>	<p>Your ISC (or DIDD Case Manager) will make sure your plan is helping you reach the goals that are important to you, like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Having friends and spending time with people you choose</li> <li>• Doing things you want to do in the community</li> <li>• Working and earning money</li> <li>• Managing your own money (with support when you need it)</li> <li>• Learning how simple technologies can help you to do more things for yourself</li> <li>• Making your own decisions (with support when you need it)</li> </ul> <p>You will also get to learn more about employment. Working has many benefits. These include higher income, better health and quality of life, and more opportunity to make friends and be part of the community. You’ll get to</p>

	<p>learn more about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The kinds of support you could get to help you work</li><li>• How employment is possible for you</li><li>• How it would impact benefits you receive (like SSI or TennCare)</li></ul> <p>This will help you decide if you want to try employment.</p> <p>If you don't want to try employment, you can still choose to get other services.</p>
<p>Adding consumer direction options in the Statewide and CAC Waivers</p>	<p>In Consumer Direction, you actually employ the people who give some of your services—they work <u>for you</u> (instead of a provider). This means that you must do the things an employer would do – like hire, train, schedule, supervise, and even fire workers.</p> <p>You must also be able to manage your services within your approved budget for each service.</p> <p>If you can't do some or all of these things, you can choose a family member, friend, or someone close to you to help you OR do these things for you.</p> <p>Services you can choose to get through Consumer Direction are Personal Assistance, Respite, and Community Transportation.</p>

<p>Adding a new service called Enabling Technology and help deciding how it might work for you</p>	<p>A new service, called Enabling Technology, could help you do things you want to do with as much independence as possible.</p> <p>Your ISC (or DIDD Case Manager) and your waiver providers will help you explore how Enabling Technology might help you have more control over your own life while still being safe.</p> <p>You can decide if you want to try it.</p> <p>If you decide to try it, it can become part of how your services are provided.</p> <p>Costs for these services are very low and you can get up to \$10,000 of Enabling Technology and Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies and Assistive Technology combined every 2 years.</p>
<p>KEEPING Nursing Services but allowing you to use Nurses to help you self-direct health care tasks when you choose</p>	<p>Face-to-face nursing services will still be covered. AND going forward, you could choose to have a nurse teach and support DSPs (Direct Support Professionals) in doing more “routine” health care tasks—like checking your blood sugar, or giving your breathing treatments or oxygen.</p> <p>When you receive Personal Assistance and choose to self-direct health care tasks, your DSPs will be paid more to help you with those health care tasks.</p>

<p>KEEPING Therapy (OT, PT, Speech, Language and Hearing), Behavior and Nutrition Services AND teaching the people who support you to carry out the treatment plan</p>	<p>Therapy (OT, PT, Speech, Language and Hearing) Behavior or Nutrition Services will still be covered. AND your therapist or provider will equip supporters to carry out your therapy, behavior, or nutrition plan as part of your regular routine.</p>
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