

Employment and Community First CHOICES

People in one of the groups below may qualify to enroll in the program and get services when there is a slot. These slots are VERY limited right now. People in the groups listed first will get the chance to enroll before people in the groups listed later. Other eligibility rules also apply.

Priority Category	What our rules say:*	What it means:
A	Any age or level of disability, employed and in need of supports to maintain employment	You have a job. You need help to keep your job.
B	18-22 years old, regardless of the level of disability, transitioning from school and young adults completing post-secondary education or training who are employed or who have the commitment of employment from an employer and are in need of employment supports	You're a young adult (at least 18 years old) and about to finish school. This could be high school. Or, it could be college or other training after high school. You have a job offer. But, you can only get the job if you have help on the job.
C	Any age or level of disability, recently unemployed and in need of supports to obtain and/or maintain new employment	You just lost your job, and you want to get a new one. You need help to get a new job. You may also need help to keep your new job.
D	18-22 years old, regardless of the level of disability, transitioning from school with expressed desire for employment	You're 18-22 years old and about to finish school. You don't have a job offer, but you want to work. You need help to get a job. You may also need help to keep your new job.
E	Unemployed, regardless of the level of disability, with desire and commitment to work.	You don't have a job yet, but you want to work. You need help to get a job. You may also need help to keep your new job.
F	Youth of transition age, regardless of the level of disability, living at home with family caregivers, who are actively planning for employment as part of the transition process and in need of supports provided in ECF CHOICES, including for individuals with more significant needs, employment customization, in order to achieve and maintain employment (applies only to youth living with their families)	You're 14-22 years old. You're still in school. You live at home with your family. You're planning to work when you get out of school. But, you need help getting ready for work. You can't get the kind of help you need from your school or Voc Rehab (Vocational Rehabilitation).

*Some of the groups were added after the program started, based on input from stakeholders. If a group isn't in the Rule yet, this is what the Rule will say. For all groups, you must need services you can't get from Vocational Rehabilitation or as education or related services.

Turn the page over for more groups.



Priority Category	What our rules say:*	What it means:
G	Adults and transition age youth who are not currently committed to working, but are willing to explore potential employment options if pre-employment supports are available, and agree to participate in the Exploration service.	You're at least 14 years old, but not old enough to retire. You're open to exploring the option of working—even part-time or working for yourself, with help from the program. You agree to receive a service called "Exploration." It will help you decide if you want to work and the kinds of jobs you might like and be really good at by visiting job sites that match your skills and interests. It also helps you (and your family) understand the benefits of working and helps answer your questions about work.
H	<p>Individuals age 62 and older who are not currently interested in pursuing employment, but need supports to actively participate in their communities and sustain integrated community living.</p> <p>Individuals age 55 and older may be included in this group if they have more significant disabilities or health conditions that could significantly impact their ability to work.</p>	<p>You're at least 62 years old. You aren't interested in working anymore. You need help to live in and be part of the community.</p> <p>OR, you're at least 55 years old. Your health problems make it hard for you to work. You need help to live in and be part of the community.</p>

We may hold slots for these groups too when there's funding:		What it means:
Sustain Family Living Arrangement	Individuals living at home with family who have significant medical or behavioral support needs that family caregivers are struggling to meet, and the sustainability of the current living arrangement is at significant risk. Services available through this program would help to support and sustain the current living arrangement and the continuation of natural caregiving supports, delaying the need for more expensive services.	You live at home with your family. You need a lot of help with medical or behavioral problems. Your family needs help caring for you so you can keep living at home. (It doesn't matter how old you are.)
Planned Transition	Adults age 21 and older living at home with family whose primary caregiver is in poor and declining health, placing the long-term sustainability of the current living arrangement at significant risk. Planned transition to community living in the most independent and integrated setting appropriate is needed in order to avoid a potential crisis situation in the near future.	You're at least 21 years old. You live at home with your family. The person who supports you is in poor health, and it's getting worse. They can't keep caring for you much longer. You need help to move to a new place soon to get the support you need.

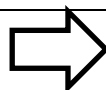
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These are the groups that may qualify to enroll in the program and get services now.

These are people who need services **right away** because they have the most urgent needs. Other eligibility rules also apply.

We may have limited space to enroll these groups NOW:	What our rules say:*	What it means:
Aging Caregiver (Required by state law)	Pursuant to T.C.A § 33-5-112 as amended, the older custodial parent or custodial caregiver of an individual who has an intellectual disability and who is at least 75 years of age OR you have a <i>developmental disability</i> and your parent or other unpaid caregiver is age 80 or older.	You have an intellectual disability. AND, your parent or other unpaid caregiver that provides most of your support is age 75 or older OR you have a <i>developmental disability</i> and your parent or other unpaid caregiver is age 80 or older.
Emergent Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person’s primary caregiver is recently deceased and there is no other caregiver available to provide needed long-term supports. OR, the person’s primary caregiver is permanently incapacitated and there is no other caregiver available to provide needed long-term supports. • Services/supports in ECF CHOICES are urgently needed because of the recent loss of the person’s living arrangement, including (as applicable), caregiver supports provided in that living arrangement that will not be available to the person going forward. • There is clear evidence of serious abuse, neglect, or exploitation in the current living arrangement. The person must move from the living arrangement to prevent further abuse, neglect or exploitation, and there is no alternative living arrangement available. • The person is being discharged from an acute care setting and is at imminent risk of being placed in a NF setting absent the provision of HCBS or has applied for admission to a NF and been determined via the PASRR process to be inappropriate for NF placement. TennCare may require confirmation of the NF or hospital discharge and, in the case of hospital discharge, written explanation of the applicant’s circumstances that warrant the immediate provision of NF services unless HCBS are immediately available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person who used to care for you has died. OR, they can no longer care for you because they have a physical or mental health problem or disability. • OR, you just lost the place you lived in and the supports you were getting there. You can’t go back and don’t have anywhere else to go. • OR, you are being abused, neglected or exploited where you live now. AND, you don’t have any other place to go. • OR, you’re in the hospital. AND, you’ll have to go to a nursing home if you can’t get support at home.

Turn the page over for more groups.



We may have limited space to enroll these groups NOW:	What our rules say:*	What it means:
More Emergent Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment into ECF CHOICES is necessary in order to facilitate transition out of a long-term care institution, i.e., a NF or a private or public ICF/IID into a more integrated community-based setting. An adult’s transition upon aging out of state custody, discharge from an inpatient psychiatric hospital (including regional mental health institute), or release from incarceration is <i>contingent</i> on the availability of services and supports in ECF because other appropriate services/supports are not available, and the services available in ECF (including covered physical and behavioral health services) will be sufficient to safely meet the person’s needs in the community. • The health, safety or welfare of the person or others is in immediate and ongoing risk of serious harm or danger. Other interventions including Behavioral Health Crisis Prevention, Intervention and Stabilization services, where applicable, have been tried but were not successful in minimizing the risk of serious harm to the person or others without additional services available in ECF CHOICES, and the situation cannot be resolved absent the provision of such services available in ECF CHOICES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OR, you need help to move out of a nursing home into a new home in the community. This includes nursing homes for people with intellectual disabilities (called an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities or ICF/IID).OR, you’re age 18 and leaving state custody. OR, you’re in a mental health hospital or in jail. You must have supports in order to leave AND those supports will keep you safe in the community. • OR, you or others are at risk of serious harm or danger. Other things have been tried but didn’t help. AND, you need these services to help keep you and others safe in the community. (It doesn’t matter how old you are.)
Multiple Complex Health Conditions	<p>The Potential Applicant has multiple complex chronic or acquired health conditions that prevent the person from being able to work, and the Potential Applicant is in urgent need of supports in order to maintain the current living arrangement and delay or prevent the need for more expensive services (applicable only to individuals of working age).</p>	<p>You’re an adult. You have complex health problems and need so much nursing care that it’s hard for you to work. You may be turning age 21 and can’t get as much nursing care because your benefits are changing. If you don’t get help right away, you’ll need care that would cost more, like care in a nursing home.</p>

*Our rules include the TennCare Rule, available at <http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-13/1200-13-01.20171001.pdf>. They also include the terms of our approved federal waiver.