



Medicaid Waivers in Illinois for Children with Disabilities and/or Chronic Illnesses

A waiver is a program that provides services that allow individuals to remain in their own homes or live in a community setting, instead of in an institution. Each waiver is designed for individuals with similar needs and offers a different set of services. Illinois currently has nine waivers. Six of them serve children:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalClients/HCBS/Pages/default.aspx>

A child generally needs to be income eligible for Medicaid (where parental income is counted up to age 18) to access a Medicaid waiver but in Illinois parental income is not a factor for three child Medicaid waivers:

<https://www.kidswaivers.org/il/>

- Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver (care coordination managed the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) at the University of Illinois (UIC)
- Support Waiver for Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities (DD)
- Residential Waiver for Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Family income is a factor (and therefore the child under age 18 must be low income/Medicaid eligible -parental income is counted) for these three waivers managed by the DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS):

- Persons with Brain Injury
- Persons with HIV or AIDS
- Persons with Disabilities

Illinois also has several adult-only waivers, including the Supportive Living Program, Waiver for Adults with Developmental Disabilities, for Persons Who are Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.

General Eligibility

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or qualified non-citizen (non-qualified non-citizens - i.e. undocumented individuals are not eligible)
- Low income -Medicaid eligible (except where parental income is not counted -MFTD waiver, Child DD Support Waiver, Child DD Residential Waiver
- Resident of Illinois

To apply

Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver (MFTD) up to age 21 -contact DSCC: <https://dsc.uit.edu/> to send email from webpage; or call 1-800-322-3722

Child DD Support or Child DD Residential Waiver, age 3 -21¹: -Register your child on the waiting list (PUNS) through your Independent Service Coordination. See: [PUNS, The Basics](#) [PUNS, The Basics in Spanish](#)

DRS waivers that children may access (includes Persons with Disabilities -under age 60; Persons with Brain Injury -any age, Persons with HIV/AIDS -any age) contact local DRS office: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12> and select as “office type” “Rehabilitation Services” from drop down menu, + county

To apply for Medicaid (all must apply -even where parental income is waived as in the MFTD waiver, Child DD Support and Child DD Residential waivers) see list of statewide enrollment assister agencies/health care providers:

https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/AllKids/aka/Document/aka_s

¹ In 2022 100 children age 18 -22 were selected from the PUNS for the Child DD support waiver. They can accept or reject the PUNS selection and wait until selected to apply for the Adults with DD waiver (usually -if child is in the “Seeking Services” category of the PUNS at age 18, the PUNS selection will occur 5 or fewer years from the 18th birthday or around age 23). DHS-DDD expects to pull another 100 or so children from the PUNS in the same age category for the Child DD Support waiver in 2023. Prior to 2022, no Child DD PUNS selections had been made for 12 years.

[earch.pdf](#) You may apply online at <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/> by mail or at your local Family Community Resource Center (FCRC): see Medicaid Q & A to see link to written application and more helpful tips: [General Medicaid Questions](#)
[General Medicaid Questions – Spanish](#)

Resources if not able to access a waiver?

Illinois Respite Coalition has emergency voucher stipends up to \$500.00:
<http://www.illinoisrespitecoalition.org/emergency-respite.html>

DHS operates 6 Crisis Nurseries for children up to age 6:
<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=35563>

Some communities/regions may offer support services for families in a specific locale. Examples include:

- ✓ Community 708 Boards:
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1499&ChapterID=34>
- ✓ Respite care for family caregivers age 60 and older (grants from Illinois Department on Aging): Caregiver Support Program:
<https://ilaging.illinois.gov/programs/caregiver.html>
- ✓ Department of Aging (DoA) Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Caregiver Resource Centers: <https://ilaging.illinois.gov/programs/caregiver/crc.html>
- ✓ Some Special Recreation programs may offer after school and/or school vacation services: <https://www.specialrecreation.org/> Financial assistance may be available.

CRSA (Community and Residential Services Authority): <https://crsa.illinois.gov/> works with families of children with severe behavioral disorders or severe mental illnesses, schools and communities to develop individualized treatments and supports by means of Family Support Grants.

Illinois Advocacy Organizations & Waiver related organizations

- The Arc of Illinois: <https://www.thearcofil.org> Family to Family Health Information Center and Illinois Life Span program
- Equip for Equality: <https://www.equipforequality.org/>
- Access Living: <https://www.accessliving.org/>
- MFTD waiver families: <https://www.mftdwaiver.org>