

## Independent Care Waiver Program

The Independent Care Waiver Program (ICWP) offers services that help a limited number of adult Medicaid members with physical disabilities live in their own homes or in the community instead of a hospital or nursing home. ICWP services are also available for persons with traumatic brain injuries (TBI). The program operates through the Georgia Department of Community Health under a Home- and Community-Based Waiver (1915c) granted by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

### Eligibility Criteria

The Independent Care Waiver is designed for eligible Medicaid members with severe physical disabilities who range in age from 21-64 when they apply and when services are started, and who meet the criteria below:

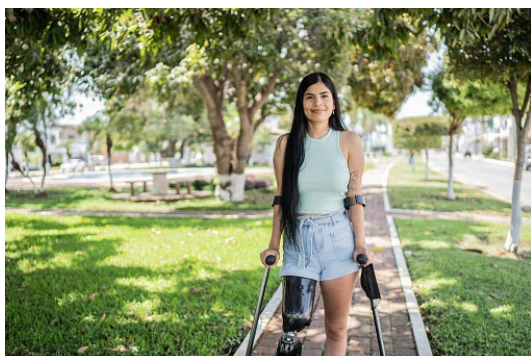
- Have a severe physical impairment and/or traumatic brain injury that substantially limit one or more activities of daily living and require the assistance of another individual. An individual with both a physical and mental impairment must qualify for nursing home or hospital level of care based on the physical impairment or TBI alone. Mental disorders, developmental delays, and intellectual delays cannot be used to meet level of care for the ICWP waiver.
- Be medically stable but at risk of placement in a hospital or nursing facility if community-based support services are not available.
- Be safely placed in a home or community setting.

Other factors also help determine eligibility, including currently residing in a hospital or nursing facility, length of time on the waiting list, ability to live independently, and estimated cost of care (based on the projected care plan).

Individuals who are considering nursing home or other institutional care may be eligible for home and community-based services as an alternative through Georgia's Medicaid waiver program.

To qualify for the waiver programs, individuals must meet the criteria for Medicaid payment in an institution and certain other criteria as outlined above.

Applicants are then offered the choice between community-based services or institutional care as long as the community services do not cost more than the institutional care.





## Services Provided

### Adult Day Services

- Daytime care and supervision in an adult day center
- Nursing and medical social services
- Planned therapeutic activities
- Meals, including prescribed diets

### Alternative Living Services

- Alternative residence for persons unable to remain independent in their own homes
- Meals, personal care, and supervision

### Emergency Response Services

- In-home electronic support system providing two-way communication between isolated persons and a medical control center
- Service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week

### Personal Support Services

- Assistance with meal preparation, hygiene and nutrition
- Light housekeeping, necessary errands, and other support services
- In-home respite care provided by an aide

### Consumer-Directed Personal Support Services

Same as Personal Support Services, except:

- Consumer (i.e., Member) hires and supervises worker(s) of choice
- Consumers enrolled in the option are required to choose a Financial Management Services provider that will issue paychecks and adhere to federal and state tax laws on behalf of the consumer.

### Skilled Nursing Services

- Hourly or per visit skilled nursing care
- Approved after assessment and determination of medical necessity

## Services Provided – Continued

### Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies

- Medically necessary durable and non-durable medical equipment not available under the Medicaid State Plan

### Environmental Modifications and Vehicle Adaptations

- Medically necessary physical adaptations to the home
- Adaptions to member-owned vehicle to provide access, driving, and security

### Case Management (Traditional and Enhanced)

- Process which includes implementing, coordinating, monitoring, evaluating options and services required to meet individual needs and making referrals as needed

### In-Home Respite Care

- Aide services in the home to provide relief of the people normally providing care

### Out-of-Home Respite Care

- Out-of-home overnight respite care in an approved facility with 24-hour supervision

### Counseling

- Treatment for personal, social or behavioral disorders to maintain and improve effective functioning

### Behavior Management

- Individualized interventions designed to decrease behavioral barriers to independent living

## How to Apply for ICWP

To apply for ICWP, contact DCH's contractor, Alliant Health Solutions at 1-888-669-7195. Alliant will complete a screening by asking potential members questions over the phone. If screening requirements are met, Alliant will have the potential member submit an application. After receiving the application, Alliant will schedule an assessment.

Based on the information provided, applicants may be eligible for ICWP and be approved to receive services as funding becomes available.