

A TEXAS RESOURCE

Texas Medicaid waivers, explained

What they are, who they are for, and the one thing to do today. Medicaid waiver programs (also called LTSS or HCBS waivers) help children with significant needs get support at home and in the community, sometimes even when family income would not normally qualify for Medicaid.

DO THIS FIRST: GET ON THE INTEREST LISTS

The lists (waitlists) can be years long, so the single most important move is to add your child today. You do not need a diagnosis, paperwork, or proof of eligibility to get on a list, just your child's name, address, phone, date of birth, and Social Security number. Eligibility is checked later, when your child nears the top. You can be on more than one list at once.

The main Texas programs

- 1 MDCP: Medically Dependent Children Program**
Through STAR Kids, for children 0–20 with medical needs who would otherwise need nursing-facility-level care.
- 2 CLASS: Community Living Assistance & Support Services**
For people with a related condition or disability (not limited to intellectual disability).
- 3 DBMD: Deaf-Blind with Multiple Disabilities**
For people who are deaf-blind with at least one additional disability.
- 4 HCS and TxHmL**
For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, supporting daily living, day activity, and in-home help.
- 5 YES: Youth Empowerment Services**
For children and youth with serious emotional or mental health needs.

Who to call to get on a list

A

MDCP, CLASS, or DBMD

Call Texas HHSC at 1-877-438-5658.

B

HCS or TxHmL

Contact your local LIDDA (the intellectual & developmental disability authority for your county).

C

YES

Call your Local Mental Health Authority.

NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

Call 2-1-1 (Texas) and ask for long-term services and supports. Navigate Life Texas (navigatelifetexas.org) is a wonderful, plain-language guide to all of these. Write down the dates you sign up and keep them in your medical record.

IN ANOTHER STATE?

Every state runs its own Medicaid home- and community-based “1915(c)” waivers, with their own names and lists. Find yours through the [Medicaid.gov](https://www.Medicaid.gov) State Waivers List, your state Medicaid agency, or by calling 2-1-1. The “get on the list early” advice holds almost everywhere.

OFFICIAL SOURCE: hhs.texas.gov · interest list line 1-877-438-5658 · 2-1-1 Texas