



## Community Waiver Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q. What is the Community Waiver Program (CWP)?

A. The CWP is a Demonstration Waiver that will allow Alabama to serve people with intellectual disabilities (ID) thru one waiver, with flexible service packages designed to the needs of individuals in the least restrictive and most community integrated ways possible.

### Q. What are the Goals of the CWP?

A.

- To keep families together by serving individuals in their own home, family home or with other natural supports
- To assist individuals and their families before they are faced with crisis situations
- To promote true community integration and inclusion, including competitive integrated employment
- To reduce Alabama's Waiting List

### Q. Who is Eligible for the CWP?

A.

- **People with ID, Ages 3+, Meeting Eligibility Requirements for ID/Living at Home (LAH) Waivers (Institutional Level of Care)**
  - ✓ Full scale IQ below 70
  - ✓ Age of onset/diagnosis of Intellectual Disability before age 18
  - ✓ Significant functional limitations in three of six areas of adaptive functioning measured by ICAP service score of 85 or lower
  - ✓ Medicaid Financial Eligibility
    - Assets: Up to \$2000
    - Income: up to 300% of Federal Poverty Level
  
- **People with ID, Ages 22+, *Almost but Not Meeting* Eligibility Requirements for ID/LAH Waivers**
  - ✓ Full scale IQ below 70
  - ✓ Age of onset/diagnosis of Intellectual Disability before age 18
  - ✓ Has a minimum of one substantial functional limitation
  - ✓ Age 22 or older
  - ✓ Medicaid Financial Eligibility
    - Assets: Up to \$2000
    - Income: up to 150% of Federal Poverty Level or if working, up to 250% of Federal Poverty Level



## **Community Waiver Program FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q. What services are available?**

A. The CWP focuses on services that keep people at home, in their communities with their family and friends. The CWP offers a range of employment and other services that encourage full inclusion in an individual's community. All services are determined based on an individual's unique Person-Centered Assessment that focuses on an individual's strengths to determine their needs. Once an individual's needs are determined, a Support Coordinator identifies the services that best addresses the need that will set the individual up for success! The Support Coordinator assists the person to access needed services from other programs and community organizations in addition to CWP services.

### **Q: How do I access services or learn if I'm eligible for CWP services?**

A. Call the ADMH Call Center at 1-800-361-4491 or visit <https://mh.alabama.gov/community-waiver-program/>. Intake for ADMH waivers start at the Call Center!

### **Q. What are the advantages of getting off the waiting list for services by enrolling in the CWP?**

A. Get services now rather than waiting for a crisis.

B. In counties where the CWP is operating, this is the only waiver that is available for individuals who are not yet receiving waiver services.

### **Q. If you are offered CWP services and you don't want them will your name be removed from the wait list?**

A. No. If a person chooses not to enroll in the Community Waiver Program, their Waiting List status is updated to reflect that they declined services. However, the person is provided information for steps forward should their decision change. They are informed that should their decision change and they reconsider the Community Waiver Program, their Waiting List status will be updated at the point of contact.



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### **Q. Can I access services immediately or must I be added to the wait list?**

A. The Call Center is the first step to intake and individuals should call the Call Center to be placed on the wait list. Depending on the availability of waiver slots in a specific region and confirmation of eligibility, the timeframe for access to CWP services may vary. In some situations, a person may be able to access services immediately after placement on the wait list.

### **Q: In what counties are the Community Waiver Program (CWP) services available?**

A. The Community Waiver Program is available in Baldwin, Elmore, Houston, Jefferson, Limestone, Madison, Mobile, Montgomery, Morgan, Tuscaloosa, and Walker counties.

### **Q. What if I don't live in one of the counties where CWP is provided?**

A. The Intellectual Disability (ID) and Living at Home (LAH) waivers will continue to be available to those counties not listed above. The intake process for Wait List will continue to be the same.

### **Q. What makes this waiver different from the Intellectual Disability or Living At Home Waiver?**

A. The CWP allows eligible individuals to receive services sooner than later. Enrollment is not based on criticality unless the individual is evaluated to need intensive supports. The CWP has five different enrollment groups based on age and other factors, each enrollment group with its own unique set of services. The CWP's design therefore allows individuals to move through ONE waiver based on needs, thereby preventing the need to change waivers to access needed services

### **Q. Will I have to redo the verification documentation such as psychological test (prior and adult IQ test), IEP, ICAP?**

A. ADMH will review all eligibility information to ensure the necessary documents are available for review by Medicaid if requested. You will be notified of the need for any additional information required for waiver eligibility.



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### **Q. Will I have a case manager?**

A. Each person will have a support coordinator, previously called a case manager, who will assist in developing a person-centered plan. The person-centered planning assessment evaluates the individual's strengths to determine their needs and ensure the most appropriate services are offered that will support the individual to achieve their goals.

### **Q. Who are the Services Providers in the new program?**

A. CWP providers and their staff have received specialized training about the services they provide. Many of the providers are experienced in serving people with intellectual disabilities, including through the ID and LAH waivers or in other states.

### **Q. Are Self-directed Services available in the new program?**

A. Yes. There are many services in the CWP that can be self-directed. When a person is enrolled, they will learn about their options to self-direct services.

### **Q. What are Self-directed Services?**

A. Self-Directed Services give the person with a disability the ability to choose and hire their own staff to deliver one or more services in their person-centered plan. Choices include control over **who** provides their services, **when** they are provided and **where**.

The individual and their chosen representative work with a Support Coordinator to develop a person-centered plan that identifies the individual's desired goals, their strengths and needs related to their goals, and the services that can best address those goals and needs. If one or more of the services can be self-directed, the person and their chosen representative can opt for self-direction. They can choose and hire their own staff to deliver those services and decide what wage they will be paid within a range set by the program.



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**Q: What if me or my family member is working with an ADRS Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) job coach? Can I access both ADRS and Community Waiver Program services?**

**A:** Yes. A person can be enrolled in the CWP and be receiving services from ADRS at the same time. However, the services provided by the CWP **must be different** from the services provided by ADRS. The CWP offers a variety of employment services to set an individual up for success! However, if one type of employment service is being provided to a person by ADRS, the CWP would not provide the same service to that person. The waiver cannot cover services which are otherwise available to the person through ADRS. Needed services that aren't available through ADRS, or needed after ADRS closes a person's case, can be provided by the CWP.

**Q. How is the Community Waiver funded?**

A. The Community Waiver Program is funded the same as ID/LAH waivers through legislative appropriation and federal funds.