

Office of the Governor | Mississippi Division of Medicaid

Independent Living Waiver Renewal Public Input Meeting

December 14, 2022



Welcome and Introductions

Independent Living Waiver

- The Independent Living Waiver is a home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver that provides services to beneficiaries who, but for the provision of such services, would require the level of care provided in a nursing facility.
- Eligibility for the Independent Living Waiver is limited to individuals age 16 years old or older, who have severe orthopedic and/or neurological impairments. Individuals must also be medically stable and be able to express ideas and wants either verbally or nonverbally with caregivers, personal care attendants, case managers, or others involved in their care.
- It is a statewide program operated by the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS).

IL Waiver Financial Eligibility

A person must qualify for full Medicaid benefits in one of the following categories of eligibility (COE):

- Supplemental security income (SSI)
- Parent/caretaker group and low income families
- Disabled child living at home
- Working disabled
- Children under age 19 under 100 percent of poverty
- Disabled adult child
- Protected foster care adolescents
- Child Welfare Services foster children and adoption assistance children
- IV-E foster children and adoption assistance children
- An aged, blind, or disabled person who meets all factors of eligibility if your income is under 300 percent of the SSI limit for an individual. If income exceeds the 300 percent limit, you must pay the amount that is over the limit each month to the Division of Medicaid under an income trust, provided you are otherwise eligible.

IL Waiver Covered Services

- Case Management
- Personal Care Attendant
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Transition Assistance

Workforce Study

- DOM is contracting with the NSPARC at Mississippi State University to complete a comprehensive study of the HCBS direct care workforce in Mississippi.
- The study will look at provider costs, employee recruitment and retention policies, and other best practices.
- Data will be used to inform upcoming rate studies and future HCBS workforce initiatives.

Overview of Renewal Process

- 1915(c) HCBS Waivers must be renewed every 5 years.
- The current IL Waiver, which was submitted as a streamlined renewal was approved effective July 1, 2022. The State plans to submit a renewal with a July 1, 2023 effective date with the purpose of realigning the 1915 (c) waivers on the same cycle to allow for administrative efficiencies, standardization of language and quality metrics across waivers, and utilizing information from a full HCBS workforce study that will be beneficial in projecting adjustments needed in service delivery.
- Renewal must be submitted to CMS for review at least 90 days prior to the expiration.
- Prior to submission for CMS review, the waiver application must be posted for Public Notice for 30 days.

Stakeholder Recommendations?



Other Ways to Provide Input

To provide recommendations or input regarding the upcoming renewal of the Independent Living Waiver, please contact:

Office of Long Term Care

Mississippi Division of Medicaid

- Email: LTSSPrograms@medicaid.ms.gov
- Toll-free: 800-421-2408
- Phone: 601-359-6141
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- Mail: Mississippi Division of Medicaid
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While public input is welcome at all times, recommendations specific to the upcoming renewal must be received by December 31, 2022.