

#CareCantWait



Congress Must Make a Historic Investment in Home and Community-Based Services for People With Disabilities

Right now, people with disabilities must sometimes wait years to get Medicaid services. We need Congress to improve access to Medicaid-funded disability services so people can get help when they need it.

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid pays for health care and other supports and services for people with disabilities and other groups.

Medicaid is run by each state, but states must follow federal rules.

Medicaid pays for many services that people with disabilities get in their community.

These are called home and community-based services (HCBS).

HCBS help people to:

- Work at a job
- Make food and eat
- Manage money
- Take medications
- Shop and take part in community activities
- Bathe and dress

How does the United States pay for HCBS right now?

HCBS are currently paid for by Medicaid through state and federal funds.

But it is very difficult for people with disabilities to get Medicaid to pay for HCBS.

Each state has different rules about:

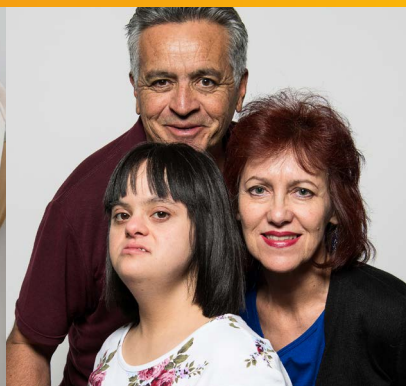
- Who can get Medicaid health coverage and HCBS
- What types of HCBS people can get

Even when people can get Medicaid, they may end up on a waiting list to use HCBS.

It can take years to move to the top of a waiting list and get services.

This means people with disabilities must often rely on family members and friends to provide HCBS or to pay for HCBS using their own money, because the only other option is an institution.

Many of these people are not paid; they give their own time to help.



Private health insurance and Medicare do not provide HCBS, and private long-term disability insurance is rare.

Why are there waiting lists?

Most people want to live at home and in their community and use HCBS.

But Medicaid HCBS are not always paid for.

The federal government requires that Medicaid pay for services for people in nursing homes and institutions.

Institutions are often far away from people's homes, families, and communities.

People with disabilities who live in institutions don't get to choose how they live their lives.

Many people think institutions are closed, but they still exist in 33 states.

The federal government does not require that Medicaid pay for HCBS; they are optional.

So, many states have very long waiting lists for people to get HCBS at home in the community.

What can happen now to help end waiting lists?

We need a historic investment in HCBS so everyone can access services in their community.

More funding for HCBS must come from Congress.

An increase in funding would help more people access Medicaid HCBS.

I would also help end waiting lists for these services.

We need Congress to pass legislation that expands access to HCBS!

Learn more and act now to help make this change at [TheArc.org/Action](https://www.thearc.org/action).