

**OMH HCBS Waiver****Overview**

The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver is a federally funded program which currently serves 1506 children with serious emotional disturbances in every county in New York State with the exception of Oneida, which has a look-alike program. The purpose of the HCBS Waiver is to serve children with complex mental health needs in their homes and communities and to decrease the need for placements in psychiatric inpatient levels of care, including Residential Treatment Facilities. The HCBS Waiver utilizes an individualized, strength-based approach to assist children in building resiliency, achieving age related developmental tasks and maintaining emotional well-being.

**Services Available**

The HCBS Waiver provides six services: Individualized Care Coordination, Intensive In-Home, Skill Building, Crisis Response, Respite and Family Support Services (see descriptions below). All enrollees receive individualized care coordination. Families and youth, in consultation with their ICC, select from the remaining Waiver services those that will best address their unique strengths and needs.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in the HCBS Waiver, a child must be Medicaid eligible under the Waiver and meet the criteria for a serious emotional disturbance, be between the ages of 5 and 17 years (prior to 18th birthday), demonstrate complex health and mental health needs, be at imminent risk of admission to a psychiatric institutional level of care or have a need for continued psychiatric hospitalization, have needs that cannot be met by just one agency/system, be capable of being cared for in the home and/or community if services are provided, have a viable and consistent living environment with parents/guardians who are able and willing to participate in the HCBS Waiver, and reasonably be expected to be served under the HCBS Waiver at a cost which does not exceed that of psychiatric institutional care.

**How to Apply**

Referrals are made to the county Single Point of Access (SPOA) in which the applicant resides. Referrals may be completed by mental health providers and practitioners, other agencies, schools, and individual families.

For additional information, go to [www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/guidance/hcbs](http://www.omh.state.ny.us/omhweb/guidance/hcbs)

**Bridges to Health (B2H) Waiver Services****Overview**

The Bridges to Health (B2H) Home and Community-Based Waiver Program provides opportunities for improving the health and well-being of children in foster care or Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY) community services supervision. The purpose of B2H is to avoid, delay, or prevent medical institutional care and provide enhanced services to children with disabilities. B2H services are provided to the child, family, and caregivers in the foster home or community setting.

The B2H Program consists of three Waivers: B2H for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbances (B2H SED); B2H for children with Developmental Disabilities (B2H DD); and B2H for Medically Fragile (B2H MedF) children – designed to provide community-based health care services and supports to children in foster care or DJJOY residential care.

**Services Available**

B2H services are tailored to meet a child's specific, presenting health care needs; they compliment but do not duplicate services provided through other programs. The B2H Waiver Program offers 14 distinct services. Descriptions of these services are listed on the reverse.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to participate in the B2H Waiver Program, a child must:

- be in the custody of the Commissioner of the Local Department of Social Services (LDSS)/Administration for Children's Services (ACS), or Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS);
- be Medicaid eligible;
- have a qualifying diagnosis;
- be able to benefit from the service.
- be under age 19 at enrollment for the B2H SED Waiver and under age 21 for the DD/Med F Waivers.

**How to Apply**

Contact your Local Department of Social Services (LDSS) or Administration for Children's Services (ACS) to discuss the enrollment process and eligibility criteria. Contact information for your LDSS can be obtained on the OCFS website: [www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/localdss.asp](http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/localdss.asp) or call the Bridges to Health Consultation line at 1-888-250-1832.

**OPWDD HCBS Waiver****Overview**

OPWDD's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver began in 1991 and provides federally funded supports to over 60,000 individuals statewide. The HCBS Waiver enables OPWDD to provide home and community based supports to children and adults who would otherwise require an institutional level of care. The waiver "waives" certain Medicaid rules in the Social Security Act so that states can creatively use Medicaid long-term care funds to support people in their communities. The HCBS waiver is one way OPWDD helps people with disabilities to live in a home of their choosing within their community; work and/or engage in activities that allow them to contribute to their communities; have meaningful relationships with those important to them; and have good health.

**Services Available**

The OPWDD HCBS Waiver offers person-centered services designed to specifically meet the needs of each individual. Twelve distinct services are offered in the OPWDD HCBS Waiver. Descriptions of these services are listed on the reverse. Waiver enrollees also receive Service Coordination to assist with establishing and maintaining eligibility, advocacy, linkage and general coordination of the services received.

**Eligibility**

In order to receive waiver services a person must be enrolled in the HCBS Waiver. The local Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO) must approve each individual for enrollment and, in order to do so, certain criteria must be met. The person must:

- have a developmental disability;
- meet eligibility of ICF/MR Level of Care;
- be enrolled in Medicaid;
- live in either their own home, a family member's home, or an OPWDD certified residence;
- choose Waiver services in preference to care in an ICF/MR facility.

**How to Apply**

Contact your Local Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO) to discuss the enrollment process and eligibility criteria. Contact information for your local DDSO can be obtained on the OPWDD website: [www.omr.state.ny.us](http://www.omr.state.ny.us) or call the OPWDD Infoline at 1-866-946-9733.

## OMH HCBS Waiver

**Individualized Care Coordination (ICC):** This service provides the first and ongoing point of engagement for the child and family. It performs the case management functions for the HCBS Waiver and oversees delivery of the remaining five services. It ensures on-going partnership with the Waiver child and family as well as on-going collaboration with treatment providers. Individualized Care Coordination encompasses development and oversight of culturally relevant, strength-based, individualized service plans that compliment the psychiatric treatment that the child and family are receiving from their treatment provider. This is a required service.

**Skill Building (SB):** This service helps the child to be successful in the home, community and school by acquiring both social and environmental skills associated with his/her current developmental stage.

**Respite Services (RS):** This service provides a needed break for the family and the child to ease the stress at home and promote overall wellness for the child and his/her family.

**Family Support Services (FSS):** This service builds on the parents/caregivers' strengths to assist them in developing safe, stable, and supportive family systems. It connects parents/caregivers to formal and informal supports and activities in their communities. Family Support Services provides resources, including, but not limited to: education, training, advocacy and networking supports.

**Intensive In-Home Services (IIH):** This service supports the child and family by engaging the child and family in ways that support the everyday application of treatment methods as described in the child's Treatment Plan (from the clinical provider) and in services described in the Waiver Service Plan (established by the Waiver program). The IIH worker reinforces desired cognitive and behavioral changes to prevent crises and to support the emotional well-being of the child and family.

**Crisis Response Services (CRS):** This service reinforces the agreed upon safety plan that the child and family have developed and attempts to stabilize occurrences of child/family crises when they arise. These services may include assessment, consultation, linkage and immediate intervention wherever necessary, for example, in schools, at home and work. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

## Bridges to Health (B2H) Waiver Services

**Health Care Integration services** (care coordination) manage the initial comprehensive assessment and reassessment processes, develop the Individualized Health Plan, and gain access for waiver participants to necessary medical, social, rehabilitation, vocational, educational and other services.

**Skill Building services:** support, guide, mentor, coach and/or train the child and/or family/caregiver in successful functioning in the home and community.

**Day habilitation services** assist individuals with developmental disabilities with the self-help, socialization and adaptive skills necessary to successfully function in the home and community when other types of skill building services are not appropriate.

**Pre-Vocational services** teach concepts, not job-specific, to facilitate success in any work environment for children whose disabilities do not permit them to access other pre-vocational services.

**Supported Employment Services** provide supervision and training, intensive ongoing support, transportation, interface with employers regarding the child's disability(ies) and needs related to his or her health care issue(s), and other activities needed to sustain paid work.

**Special Needs Community Advocacy and Support services** assist the child, family/caregiver, and community/school staff to understand and address the waiver participant's needs related to their disability in order to minimize interruption in a child's education.

**Planned Respite services provide** planned short term relief for family/caregivers (non-shift staff) needed to enhance the family/caregiver's ability to support the child's disability or health care issues.

**Family/Caregiver Supports and Services provide** education and training on resource availability for family/caregivers, and to enhance the ability of the waiver participant interact and engage with other children in appropriate developmental activities or appropriate community activities.

**Crisis Avoidance and Management and Training services provide** psycho-education and training to address specific issues that disrupt or jeopardize the child's successful functioning in the community.

**Immediate Crisis Response Services are** 24-hour services designed to respond immediately to crises that threaten the stability of the child's placement and the child's ability to function in the community.

**Intensive In-Home Supports services provide** intervention to secure child and family/caregiver's health and safety following a crisis.

**Crisis Respite services provide** emergency short-term relief for family/caregivers (non-shift staff) needed to resolve a crisis and segue back to the child's successful functioning and engagement in service plan activities.

**Adaptive and Assistive Equipment provide(s)** aids, controls, appliances or supplies intended to supplement New York's approved Medicaid State Plan medical equipment and supplies coverage to enable the waiver participant to increase his or her ability to function in a home and community based setting.

**Accessibility Modifications provide** internal and external physical adaptations to the home or other residence of the foster child that are necessary to support the health and welfare of the waiver participant.

## OPWDD HCBS Waiver

**Habilitation** services help the person to develop skills so that they may live as independently as possible and achieve independent goals. There are four distinct types of Habilitation services in this waiver.

- **Residential Habilitation** is provided primarily in the person's home and community and occurs at a time that is usually considered part of the person's "non-working" hours.
- **Day Habilitation** is provided primarily away from a person's home in a community setting.
- **Prevocational Services** address the person's vocational interests and are designed to prepare the person for the working world. They assist individuals who are interested in joining the world of work but are not expected to obtain competitive employment within a year.
- **Supported Employment** services assist individuals in finding and keeping meaningful and paid employment. These services take place in integrated work settings where the person is competitively employed.

**Respite** provides short-term relief to caregivers who are responsible for the primary care and support of a person with a developmental disability. This service may be provided in the person and caregiver's home or an approved site.

**Family Education and Training** provides education and training to caregivers of children under the age of 18 who are enrolled in the HCBS Waiver. The purpose is to enhance the family's knowledge, skills, and decision making capacity to help them care for a child with developmental disabilities.

**Plan of Care Support Services** is provided to people who are enrolled in the HCBS Waiver and do not have monthly MSC. PCSS providers assist the person to maintain waiver eligibility by reviewing the ISP every six months and performing the annual level of care evaluation.

**Consolidated Supports and Services** is a highly individualized option where the participant can manage their own portable budget and direct their own services, including hiring their own staff support.

**Fiscal Employer Agent** is the service that supports people participating in CSS. The provider assists the person with managing their budget, paying providers, and acts as employer of record for the staff supports hired by the participant.

**Transitional Supports** are supports that assist waiver participants who are moving from an institutional residence to a less restrictive setting such as their own home, or a Family Care home. Transitional supports fund initial startup costs such as essential furnishings, moving expenses, and security deposits.

**Adaptive Devices** are aids, controls, appliances, or supplies which are necessary to enable the person to increase or maintain his or her ability to live at home and in the community with independence and safety.

**Environmental Modifications** Are adaptations to the home that are necessary to increase or maintain a person's ability to live at home with independence.