

Please contact your local regional center for information on services available to individuals with developmental disabilities:

Alta California Regional Center
www.altaregional.org
Central Valley Regional Center
www.cvrc.org
Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
www.elarc.org
Far Northern Regional Center
www.farnorthernrc.org
Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center
www.lanterman.org
Golden Gate Regional Center
www.ggrc.org
Harbor Regional Center
www.hddf.com
Inland Regional Center
www.inlandrc.org
Kern Regional Center
www.kernrc.org
North Bay Regional Center
www.nbrc.net
North Los Angeles County Regional Center
www.nlacrc.com
Redwood Coast Regional Center
www.redwoodcoastrc.org
Regional Center of East Bay
www.rceb.org
Regional Center of Orange County
www.rcocdd.com
San Andreas Regional Center
www.sarc.org
San Diego Regional Center
www.sdrcc.org
San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center
www.sgprc.org
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center
www.sclarc.org
Tri-Counties Regional Center
www.tri-counties.org
Valley Mountain Regional Center
www.vmrc.net
Westside Regional Center
www.westsiderc.org

Department of Developmental Services
Community Operations Division,
Regional Center Branch
1600 Ninth Street, Room 320
Sacramento, CA 95814



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Arnold Schwarzenegger • Governor

Kimberly Belshé • Secretary
California Health & Human Services Agency

Cliff Allenby • Director
Department of Developmental Services

DDS Internet Home Page

www.dds.ca.gov

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The Home and Community- Based Services Waiver For Individuals With Developmental Disabilities



DDS Department of Developmental Services
"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"
www.dds.ca.gov

◆ **WHAT IS THE HOME AND COMMUNITY- BASED SERVICES (HCBS) WAIVER?**

The HCBS Waiver is a way to fund certain services that allow a person who experiences developmental disabilities to live at home or in the community rather than having to go to live in a licensed health facility.

Costs for these services are funded jointly by the federal government's Medicaid program and the State of California.

◆ **WHAT IS "WAIVED"?**

Certain federal Medicaid rules are "waived", allowing the state to provide services to people with developmental disabilities in ways that are not available to other people who are enrolled in Medicaid (which is called Medi-Cal in California). One federal condition of the Waiver is that those supports or services are different than those available through Medi-Cal.

◆ **DO I HAVE TO BE ON THE WAIVER TO RECEIVE REGIONAL CENTER SERVICES?**

If you or your family member is eligible for the HCBS Waiver, it is good to enroll in it. That way many of the services that you choose will be partially paid for by the federal Medicaid program. This usually means that more people like yourself or your family member can receive services.

Enrollment in the HCBS Waiver is a matter of choice. Unlike other states that restrict services to persons served under the HCBS Waiver, California's regional centers provide the full scope of state-funded services to all eligible persons.

Whether you are eligible for – and choose – enrollment in the HCBS Waiver or not, you or your family member will receive the same person-centered planning, opportunities to choose services and providers, and be ensured the same quality of care.

◆ **WHO BENEFITS FROM THE HCBS WAIVER?**

To benefit from the HCBS Waiver you, or your family member, must meet three conditions. First, you must have "full scope" Medi-Cal eligibility – either through your own, your family's eligibility or, if you are under the age of 18, through something called "institutional deeming" (see below). Second, you must have a formal diagnosis of mental retardation or developmental disability and be a regional center consumer. Third, you must undergo an evaluation that determines that you would benefit from a certain level of care for your disabilities that would be available in a licensed health care facility for people who have mental retardation. This third qualification is important not because you will go to such a facility, but because the HCBS Waiver is designed to help people stay in the community rather than have to go to such a facility to get the services they need.

◆ **WHAT IS INSTITUTIONAL DEEMING?**

Institutional Deeming is a special Medi-Cal eligibility rule that considers only the personal income and resources of a person under the age of 18 or a married adult who is otherwise eligible for the Waiver. This allows a person who meets the criteria above to be determined as eligible for Medi-Cal regardless of his or her parent's or spouse's income and resources.

This is very helpful because typically a family's health insurance or income will not cover the total cost of these needed services.

Through "Institutional Deeming rules," the family may now obtain Medi-Cal benefits for needed services regardless of income.

This also allows that person to be eligible for all Medi-Cal services – not just those provided through the HCBS Waiver. This eligibility applies as long as the person is enrolled in the Waiver.

◆ **THE HCBS WAIVER QUALITY FRAMEWORK**

The goals of the HCBS Waiver are to ensure consumer choice of waiver services, consumer satisfaction, and to provide safeguards necessary to ensure the health and safety of each consumer in the program. These goals are accomplished through the following framework of quality assurance that focuses attention on:

- Consumer rights to due process, grievances, and personal decisions.
- Consumer-centered service planning, and service modifications in response to changing needs.
- Consumer choice of qualified providers and monitoring of providers by the regional center.
- Consumer health and safety.
- A user-friendly enrollment process. The regional center determines eligibility for the Waiver based on current Medi-Cal status, the consumer's level of care needs and consumer choice. Consumers may also choose to disenroll or terminate their participation in the Waiver at any time.