

Applying for the Home Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver

The Home Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver funds a disabled individual on a monthly basis in order to remain living integrated in their community, living their preferred lifestyle. The waiver provides the supports that meet the needs of individuals, reducing institutionalization, and drastically relieving caregivers.

Families can apply for these services when their child turns 5, through their local Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) for those with Intellectual Disabilities (IDD). Pottawatomie county residents will apply at Big Lakes Developmental Services, Inc. in Manhattan and Wabaunsee county residents will apply at Hetlinger Developmental Services, Inc. in Emporia. **By applying, this does NOT commit a child to receive services at the local CDDO**, but determining eligibility and access to the waiting list which is currently 8-10 years out. This is why it **is critical to make an application right away**. Once eligibility is determined, you have the choice to obtain a Targeted Case Manager off a list that your CDDO will give you. The role of a Targeted Case Manager is to link, assist, coordinate, monitor and follow-up on service options that your loved one needs in order to remain successful. This could include SSI/Medicaid benefits, advocating, attending IEPs, Positive Behavior Support planning and many other supports. A Targeted Case Manager is paid by Medicaid so don't let a possibility of a financial burden deny services, as your Targeted Case Manager can help with that as well. Additionally, by applying early, this sets up a wonderful transition into adulthood. Your loved one has a greater chance of coming off the waiting list before they exit school, obtaining services that the state pays for, greatly reducing the risk in a gap of services after they exit high school.

Once your loved one comes off the waiting list, he/she will be eligible for residential service option living, day service options, supported employment, and/or supportive home care; all funded by the state HCBS IDD waiver. Your loved one **can choose** if they want to live alone, have roommates, get supportive home care, or stay at home. Your loved one can work in a sheltered workshop or work in the community with supports. Your loved one can remain at home with their family and hire their own staff to help with personal care services choosing their own financial management services.

To start this process, families need to contact their local CDDO. Pottawatomie residents need to contact Teresa Still at (785) 776-2642 or my email at cddo.tstill@biglakes.org. Wabaunsee residents need to contact Sara Pearson at (620) 342-1087 or by email at: spearson@hetlinger.org.

The transition coordinator is happy to assist families with this process. If you would like her support, please contact Cristi Wiegers at (785) 456-2214 ext. 5050 or by email at: wiegersc@usd320.com.