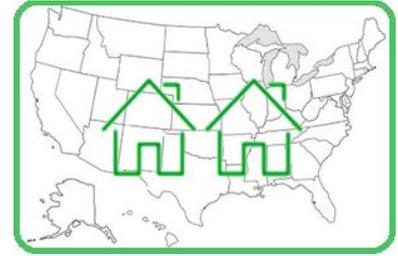


Medicaid Has Ways to Help People Stay in their Homes

A Waiver that Staves off Institutionalization



Medicaid's Home and Community Based Services Programs

People with physical or intellectual disabilities typically face the threat of institutionalized care. But Medicaid's 1915(c) waivers give states a way to help these individuals remain in their community. The waiver allows states to provide additional home services that are not traditionally covered by Medicaid. This "HCBS" waiver is the most widely used Medicaid waiver; most states have implemented at least one, and 302 are in effect across the U.S. These programs, which can be directed at specific populations or areas of the state,¹ can be designed to offer anything from supportive services such as bathing and dressing assistance to a personal assistant to help the person get ready for work in the morning, thus enabling them to not only live in their home but to be a contributing member of the workforce.

What states have done to help keep people at home:

Alabama

The "State of Alabama Independent Living Service," or SAIL, provides in-home education and counseling, attendant care, training, and medical services to adults with the most-significant disabilities.

[SAIL](#)



Oklahoma

"Homeward Bound" grew out of a lawsuit filed by parents of children with intellectual disabilities who were receiving sub-standard care at a state-run institution. The case resulted **in the closure of the facility and the creation of a new Medicaid waiver that provides for comprehensive services for the facility's former residents.**²

[Homeward Bound](#)



New York

The "People First" program makes services available through both state operated agencies and nonprofits. Habilitation services, supported employment, and adaptive technologies are among benefits that are offered via the public-private partnership.

[People First Transformation](#)



State residents can get involved in this process, both in selecting the experiments that are undertaken and in helping guide how their particular program is structured. A state's Medicaid agency is a good starting point.² Illinois's Medicaid agency is the Department of Healthcare and Family Services; visit the HFS [Home and Community Based Services page](#).

Bottom line: States Medicaid programs can help people remain in the community

Source:

1. Medicaid.gov <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/hcbs/authorities/1915-c/index.html>

2. Tulsa World http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/local/years-later-after-the-lawsuit-that-shut-down-hissom-families/article_dafe58fb-7262-5a7f-a33f-3627f7b16104.html

3. Medicaid.gov <https://www.medicaid.gov/about-us/contact-us/contact-state-page.html>