

# Long Term Services and Supports Community Support Waiver

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# KANSAS

# Introduction



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Long Term Services and Supports  
Home and Community Based Services  
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# Community Support Waiver

The new Community Support Waiver (CSW) will help Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live independent lives at home and in the community. People with I/DD who do not need continuous, 24-hour support can choose from a range of services that fit their assessed needs.

# Goals of the CSW

OUR goal for the CSW is to help Kansans with disabilities achieve THEIR goals!!!

The CSW will cover a range of home and community-based services (HCBS) designed to:

- Increase access to services for people with I/DD
- Enhance natural supports and family caregiving
- Help people live more independently at home and in the community
- Help people find competitive, integrated employment
- Promote connection to the community
- Offer more opportunities for people to choose and direct their own services

# Reducing Wait Times

Right now, thousands of Kansans receive support through the [HCBS I/DD Waiver](#). And over the years, the number of people waiting for services has climbed steadily. Now, some people may have to wait years—even a decade. We don't want anyone to wait that long for essential services.

## **The new CSW aims to reduce that wait time.**

We know the CSW will not eliminate the waitlist on its own, but it is a step in the right direction toward getting people on the waitlist the services they need. The CSW will eventually open thousands of new slots on Medicaid waivers.

## **The goal is for the waiver to be active starting late summer of 2026.**

**We aim to serve 500 people on this waiver in the first year and increase that number steadily over the next several years.**

# Development

- 1. Write the First Draft of the Waiver - “FOR KANSANS, BY KANSANS”**
- 2. Establish the Payment Rates for Providers**
- 3. Listen to Stakeholders**
- 4. Open for Public & Tribal Comment**
- 5. State Legislative Approval**
- 6. Submit for Federal Review**
- 7. Update State Systems**

# 21 Proposed Services

- Assistive Technology
- Behavior Therapy
- Benefits Planning
- Career Exploration and Planning
- Family/Caregiver Support and Training
- Home Telehealth
- Home & Environmental Modification Services
- Individual Directed Goods and Services
- Individual Employment Support Services
- Life Skill Services
- Medication Reminder Services
- Non-medical Transportation
- Occupational Therapy
- Personal Care Services
- Personal Emergency Response System and Installation
- Physical Therapy Services
- Remote Support Services
- Respite
- Speech and Language Therapy Services
- Specialized Medical Equipment & Supplies
- Vehicle Modification Services

# Services

## Assistive Technology

Assistive technology is an item, a piece of equipment, or a product system—whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized—that is used to increase, maintain, or improve a participant’s functional capabilities, independence, or vocational skills.

Assistive technology services include the following:

Consultation: evaluating what assistive technology a participant might need or benefit from

Equipment: covering the cost of leasing, buying, or otherwise providing equipment. This may include costs for customizing or modifying equipment to meet a participant’s specific needs.

Service delivery: installing or servicing/repairing the equipment

Support and education: any additional training beyond what is covered in the initial setup.

Participants and their caregivers, employers, or other support people can all participate in training.

**Examples of Assistive Technology:** speech generating software, adaptive keyboards, voice-activated phone dialers, screen readers, smart home devices, etc.

## Behavior Therapy

Behavior therapy uses research-based strategies to help people change in ways they would like to change. These changes can improve a participant's quality of life and reduce challenging behaviors like aggression, destroying things, self-injury, or poor anger management.

Together with a therapist, participants work on positive changes to themselves and their environment to improve their self-control, skills, abilities, and level of independence.

Behavior therapy may involve the use of behavioral assessments and/or the development of Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs).

**Example of Behavior Therapy:** a psychologist or other behavior therapy professional helps a participant respond to triggers with healthy behaviors instead of self-destructive ones.

# Services

## Benefits Planning

Benefits planning helps participants understand how a promotion, higher wages, increased hours, or other work changes could impact their public benefits.

**Examples of Benefits Planning:** meeting with a certified benefits planner before accepting a new job or promotion, help understanding how to report your income, etc.

# Services

## Career Exploration and Planning

Career exploration supports participants as they plan their careers and explore new opportunities. It can include support for all aspects of a job search, from picking a field to sending out applications.

**Examples of Career Exploration:** identifying skills and interests, exploring potential career paths, finding job openings, applying for jobs, preparing for interviews, etc.

# Services

## Family and Caregiver Support and Training

Providing support and training to family or caregivers who provide unpaid support, companionship, or supervision to participants

This includes support and training on the following:

- How to provide a safe and supportive environment for participants
- Healthy coping strategies to decrease caregiver strain, improve relationships with others, and increase social supports
- Understanding and addressing the participant's specific needs and their Person-Centered Service Plan
- Problem-solving skills, coping mechanisms, and strategies for the participant's symptoms and behavior management
- Understanding the waiver process
- Finding supportive resources in the community

**Example:** A monthly parent support group for caregivers of people with I/DD

# Services

## Home and Environmental Modifications

Physical modifications to a participant's home based on an assessment designed to support the participant's efforts to function with greater independence and create a safer, healthier environment

This includes the following:

- Modifications to the participant's home
- Training to use the modification
- Repairs or maintenance of the modification

**Examples:** The installation of grab bars, access ramps, railings, detectable warnings on walking surfaces, wider doorways and halls, stair glides, etc.

# Services

## Home Teleheath

Remote monitoring systems that enable the participant to effectively manage one or more diseases and catch early signs of trouble so intervention can occur before the participant's health declines

Includes participant education specific to one or more disease(s) and nursing supervision

Only available to participants who have had two or more hospitalizations or ER visits within the past year or who are transitioning from a nursing facility back into the community

**Example:** A participant uses a remote vital sign monitoring system and app to report symptoms to nursing staff who review and alert medical professionals of concerns in attempt to divert crisis episodes.

# Services

## Individual Directed Goods and Services

Services, equipment, and/or supplies that cannot be obtained through any other CSW service and that address a participant need

IDGS are approved on a case-by-case basis but must meet the following criteria:

- The item or service decreases the need for other Medicaid services, promotes inclusion in the community, or increases the participant's safety at home.
- The participant cannot afford to buy the item or service, and it is not available through another source.
- The item or service advances the participant's goals listed in their person-centered service plan.
- The item or service is not experimental or prohibited by federal and state law.
- The item or service is acquired in the most cost-effective way (rental, lease, or purchase).
- The item or service can fit in the participant-directed budget without affecting health or safety.
- The item or service is only for the benefit of the participant.

**Examples approved in other states:** Small household appliances (e.g., a microwave), laundry services, camps, horse therapy, aquatic therapy, music therapy, health club memberships, etc.

# Services

## Individual Employment Supports

Individual employment supports provide job-related coaching to help a waiver participant build job skills, integrate into their workplace, and maintain competitive integrated employment.

**Examples of Individual Employment Supports:** Job skills training, employer-employee collaboration to address workplace challenges, etc.

# Services

## Life Skills

Training in life skills helps waiver participants build the skills to live independently and maintain employment.

Includes instruction and skill-building related to the following:

- Communication, adaptability, and personal development (self-advocacy skills, stress management, intimate-relationship management, etc.)
- Problem-solving, time management, and transition and future planning
- Financial Management (budgeting, saving, credit building, etc.)
- Independent Living Skills
- Health and wellness (i.e., navigating the health care system, mental health awareness, etc.)
- Digital and technical literacy (basic computer operation, internet safety, etc.)

**Examples of Life Skills:** money management, time management, problem-solving, finding housing, doing laundry, home maintenance, etc.

# Services

## Medication Reminders

Providing a scheduled reminder to a participant when it is time to take medications

This service may include a phone call, recording, alarm, or dispenser, depending on the specific system.

**Examples:** A clock with a programmable voice message reminding someone to take their medications, a machine that sorts and dispenses medications on a programmed schedule, etc.

# Services

## Non-Medical Transportation

Non-medical transportation carries waiver participants to community services, activities, and resources. Participants can choose between different types of transportation, depending on their needs and what is available. Non-medical transportation does not include training participants on how to use public transportation.

**Examples of Non-Medical Transportation:** hiring a driver to go to the grocery store once a week, using a bus pass to go to work, using a ride service to attend a monthly game night.

# Services

## Occupational Therapy

Through occupational therapy, participants can build motor and cognitive skills for activities of daily living (ADLs). Occupational therapy also offers creative solutions and alternatives for participants struggling with ADLs. In every case, occupational therapy helps participants develop and maintain the skills they need to be independent and happy with their quality of life.

**Examples of Occupational Therapy:** helping a participant learn to dress themselves by adapting their clothing or environment, using assistive tools, or through practice.

# Services

## Personal Care Services

Personal care services cover one-to-one services that enable participants to complete tasks like:

Activities of daily living (ADLs): bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, ambulating, eating, etc.

Instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs): preparing meals, shopping, taking medication, housekeeping, managing money, communication, transportation, etc.

Health maintenance activities (must be delegated by physician or nurse): monitoring vitals; ostomy, catheter, or wound care; enteral nutrition; range of motion exercises; medication assistance; etc.

Exercise, socialization, and recreation

Accessing medical care

**Examples of Personal Care Services:** assistance with bathing, dressing, meal preparation, housekeeping, medication monitoring, accompaniment with recreation activities, etc.

# Services

## Personal Emergency Response Systems

Personal emergency response systems (PERS) are electronic devices that alert help if a participant has an emergency. This waiver service would cover the cost of renting a device, fees for installing it in a participant's home, and the cost of maintaining it.

**Examples of Personal Emergency Response Systems:** medical alert or fall detection bracelets, necklaces, buttons, etc.

# Services

## Physical Therapy

Physical therapy helps participants with their motor function and mobility. This prevents mobility loss and helps participants stay active and healthy.

Treatment can involve work in many areas, including standing, sitting, walking, balance, muscle tone, endurance, strength, and coordination. When necessary, a therapist might suggest special equipment to support participants and show participants how to use it.

**Examples of Physical Therapy:** showing a participant exercises that improve hand strength so they can grip objects; working on leg strength for better coordination and balance.

# Services

## Remote Support

Remote support services let staff monitor and support a participant without being physically present. Participants can communicate on-demand in real time with providers who can help participants remotely.

Remote support services may include technology like tablets, GPS tracking sensors, or webcams in a participant's home, if the participant requests them. Participants must be able to turn the devices off if they want to.

**Examples of Remote Support:** staff using two-way video to coach a participant through activities of daily living, like preparing meals or brushing their teeth.

# Services

## Respite

Respite provides temporary care for a participant so their regular unpaid caregiver(s) can take a break. Respite care covers supervision or activities provided through Personal Care Services, like help with activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs).

Respite can be provided at planned times or in an emergency. It can be provided in the participant's home; the home of a relative, friend, or respite care provider; a licensed respite care facility or foster home; or another facility approved by KDADS.

**Examples of Respite:** a family member is paid to care for the participant while the primary caregiver takes a break; a provider offers respite drop-in hours so the caregiver can run errands or go to appointments.

# Services

## Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and language therapy treats speech and/or language disorders. In other words, it helps participants who struggle to produce sounds, put words together, or otherwise communicate. Speech and language therapy services can also address issues related to swallowing and respiration. Specific goals will depend on the participant's level of functioning.

**Examples of Speech and Language Therapy:** A speech-language pathologist works with a participant to strengthen the muscles that control speech or swallowing.

# Services

## Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies

Specialized medical equipment and supplies (SMES) include:

Devices, controls, software, or appliances that help participants perform activities of daily living

Items, equipment, or supplies for life support or addressing physical conditions

Durable and non-durable medical equipment a participant needs but that is not available under the State plan

The service covers the price of the equipment, along with costs for maintenance, upkeep, or training.

**Examples of Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies:** durable medical equipment not covered by the State plan or disposable supplies like wipes, testing strips, etc.

# Services

## Vehicle Modifications

Vehicle modifications are changes to a participant's main mode of transportation. These changes must support the health and safety of the participant, and let them be a greater part of the community.

Vehicle modifications cover:

Assessments

Repairs

Training on how to use a modification

Vehicle modifications **exclude**:

Buying or leasing a car

General vehicle upkeep or repair, except for the modifications

State inspections, insurance, gasoline, fines, tickets, or warranties

Any adaptations or improvements to the vehicle that do not directly benefit the participant

**Examples of Vehicle Modifications:** adding hand controls, pedal extensions, steering devices, wheelchair lifts, swivel seats, etc.

# Services

The Kansas Legislature established a \$20,000 annual limit on services per participant that **can only be adjusted based on legislative action.**

**Exceptions to the limit are not allowed.**

If a participant's needs change such that they can no longer be met within the \$20,000 limit, the participant's TCM will do the following:

- Help the participant supplement CSW services with other non-waiver services to meet their needs, or
- Refer the participant to another HCBS waiver program that can accommodate their needs

# Targeted Case Management

## Targeted Case Management

- This is NOT a waiver service and is available once you are found diagnostically eligible. If you are not KANCARE eligible, there may be a fee for this service.
- The services they provide include Assessment, Support Planning, Monitoring & Follow-up, and Referrals.
- One can get TCM if determined system/ diagnostically eligible, even if under 5

**If you are a TCM please refer to Appendix D in the Community Support Waiver for important changes. KDADS is developing a training for case managers and encourages**

# Participant Direction of Services

**Appendix E describes how CSW participants can direct their own services**, the responsibilities involved, and the support available to help them succeed in doing so.

**Participant direction, or self-direction**, is when a participant takes a more active role in managing their services. The CSW allows participants to do the following:

- Hire and manage their own workers for certain services
- Decide what wage to pay the workers within a range set by the State
- Choose how and when services are delivered
- Tailor services to their needs and preferences
- Switch between self-directed and provider-managed services at any time

Participant direction is **optional**. If the participant prefers not to manage these responsibilities, they can still receive the same services through provider-managed delivery

# Participant Direction of Services

The CSW allows participants to **self-direct the following services:**

- Personal Care Services
- Respite
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Family/Caregiver Support and Training
- Individual-Directed Goods and Services (IDGS)

For all the self-directed services except IDGS, participants can hire their own staff member to deliver the service, and they accept the responsibilities of being an employer.

As the employer, the CSW participant can do the following:

- Recruit, hire, schedule, and train workers
- Set staff wages
- Approve timesheets
- Replace workers when needed
- Set extra qualifications for staff (above State minimums)

# Participant Direction of Services

**Individual-Directed Goods and Services (IDGS)** allow CSW participants to use their self-directed budget to purchase an item or service that meets their needs but isn't available through another CSW service.

IDGS are approved on a case-by-case basis and must be authorized in the participant's person-centered service plan.

# Budget/ Cap

There is a \$20,000 budget spending limit each year for services on the CSW.

While there is a wide array of services it is important to keep in mind that this waiver is intended for independence. There will be support to help individuals identify community resources and other avenues to meet additional needs if available. When determining if this waiver is appropriate, it is important to be mindful of this limitation.

KDADS is working with the CDDOs and MCOs to help create tools that will help individuals identify if this waiver is a good fit! Please let us know your ideas at well!

# Participant Access and Eligibility

## Program Eligibility:

**Appendix B describes CSW eligibility requirements and enrollment processes.**

To be eligible for the CSW, a person must meet the following **requirements:**

- Be 5 years of age or older
- Have an intellectual disability that began before age 18 or a developmental disability that began before age 22
- Be determined program eligible by KDADS and meet the Medicaid long-term care institutional threshold
- Be determined financially eligible for Medicaid by KDHE
- Be a resident of Kansas

CSW participants must need *at least one* waiver service monthly. Annual eligibility reassessments are required. CDDOs conduct functional eligibility assessments using the Medicaid Functional Eligibility Instrument (MFEI).

# Participant Access and Eligibility

**Priority enrollment** will be given to eligible applicants based on the **duration of time spent on the I/DD Waiver waitlist.**

- CSW applicants who are currently on the I/DD Waiver waitlist will receive priority enrollment.
- Applicants who have been on the waitlist the longest will be selected for waiver entrance before those who have been on the waitlist for less time or who are not currently on the waitlist.
- Applicants who are not on the I/DD Waiver waitlist will be offered enrollment on the CSW according to their date of application after priority applications have been processed.

**Individuals on the I/DD Waiver waitlist will lose their spot on the waitlist if they choose to enroll in the CSW.**

**The CSW will not have a waitlist.**

# You Can Help!

## Please visit the website to:

Understand the process of developing a new waiver

Join the mailing list

Ask questions

Stay current on changes and updates

Sign up for Town Hall meetings and have your voice heard

**PLEASE SHARE!!**

[Kansas Community Support Waiver](http://www.kansascommunitysupportwaiver.com)  
[www.kansascommunitysupportwaiver.com](http://www.kansascommunitysupportwaiver.com)

# Thank You!!

## **AU Waiver Program Manager**

*For questions about the Proposed Recipient List or To receive additional information about the HCBS AU Program*

Phone (General HCBS Admin Line): (785) 296-4983

Email: [KDADS.autism@ks.gov](mailto:KDADS.autism@ks.gov)

## **KanCare Clearinghouse**

For questions about initial eligibility or status of application, annual renewals, and calculating or lowering client obligations.

- Customer Service: 1-800-792-4884
- Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3599, Topeka, KS 66601-9738
- Fax #s: 1-800-498-1255 or 1-844-264-6285
- Apply online: [www.kancare.ks.gov/consumers/apply-for-kancare](http://www.kancare.ks.gov/consumers/apply-for-kancare)

## **KanCare Ombudsman's office**

When other assistance is not working out, the KanCare Ombudsman's office helps in resolving problems regarding services, coverage, access and rights. o **Phone:** 1-855-643-8180

**Relay:** 711

Email: **[KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov](mailto:KanCare.Ombudsman@ks.gov)**