RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS OVERVIEW

This sheet will provide you with information and resources to better understand some of the residential options available to people served by Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services (HCDDS). In Ohio, residential services are provided to people with DD either in Intermediate Care Facilities or in community-based residential settings, often using funding from Medicaid waivers. Your service and support administrator (SSA) or other assigned HCDDS staff are available to help you explore your options.

INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES (ICF)

An ICF is a place where someone with a disability can choose to live and receive services.

Things to know

- A person must be eligible for Medicaid in Ohio to live in an ICF.
- Each ICF controls its own admission process and decides whether a person can live there.
- Each ICF has its own specific application.
- To learn more about ICFs, see the Residential Options Counseling Pamphlet from the Ohio Department Of Developmental Disabilities and the resources on the back of this sheet.

COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS

Community-based residential options include places such as apartments, single-family homes, or group homes. A Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver can fund the necessary supports to allow a person to live in a community-based setting. This could include help getting ready, preparing meals, and going places. You can learn more about waivers on the back of this sheet.

Things to know

- Those enrolled on a waiver can choose from a variety of settings in which to receive their waiver services.
- One option a person can choose is a licensed setting, often referred to as a group home. Use the resources on the back of this sheet or talk to your SSA to learn more.
- People can also use waivers in their own apartments or houses or in their family's home.
- The Housing Network of Hamilton County is a partner agency that offers safe and affordable housing to people served by HCDDS. Learn more at housing-network.org.
- If you are interested in other housing options that may or may not require a waiver, depending on a person's level of support needs, see the Housing Options Guide produced by the Home Think Tank at hamiltondds.org/housing-guide.
- To learn more about waivers and waiver services, see the back of this sheet and the Residential Options Counseling Pamphlet from DODD.

RESIDENTIAL OPTIONS OVERVIEW

WAIVERS

A Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver provides funding for a person with a disability to receive services and support in the community rather than in a facility. While waivers cannot be used to pay for rent or utilities, they can fund other support to allow a person to live in a community-based setting. This could be help getting ready, preparing meals, or going places. HCDDS administers three waivers: Level One, SELF and Individual Options (I/O).

Things to know

- A person must be eligible for Medicaid in Ohio to enroll on a HCBS waiver.
- Before being enrolled on a Medicaid waiver, Ohio requires a person to have a waiver waiting list assessment. The outcome of the assessment and the county board's availability of funds will determine if a person is able to be enrolled on a waiver. For more information, visit dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/waivers-and-services/waivers/ohios-waiver-waiting-list.
- As part of the enrollment process, Medicaid requires a Level of Care (LOC) Assessment to determine whether a person requires the level of services provided by a waiver.
- Once enrolled, a person's needs are assessed by his or her SSA and services are authorized to meet those needs.

RESOURCES

Use the links below to explore the residential options outlined here. You can also learn more in the attached pamphlet or by contacting your SSA.

- If you're interested in ICFs in and around Hamilton County, you can find a list of all ICFs at hamiltondds.org/icf-list.
- See the ICF map available on the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website at dodd.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/dodd/your-family/all-family-resources/icf_search_map.
- Search the DODD vacancy registry for licensed homes, also called group homes, at providersearch.dodd.ohio.gov/provider_search.aspx.
- Ask your SSA to check the HCDDS house mate list for group home vacancies.
- Learn more about the Housing Network of Hamilton County and find a list of available homes at housing-network.org.
- Learn about creative housing options using Home Think Tank's Housing Options Guide at hamiltondds.org/housing-guide.

HAMILTON COUNTY
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
SERVICES

Ohio | Department of Developmental Disabilities

Residential Options Counseling Pamphlet

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Introduction

This pamphlet briefly describes services available in intermediate care facilities and services available under home and community-based waivers. If you are interested in learning more, please contact your local county board of developmental disabilities.

ICFs and HCBS Waivers: What are they and what is the difference?

In the following pages, we will describe each service option and answer some frequently asked questions.

Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF)

ICF is a short way of saying "Intermediate Care Facility".

An ICF is a place where someone with a disability can choose to live and get the services that help him/her live their life.

An ICF has staff that can help you 24 hours a day.

Can I live by myself in an ICF?

No, every ICF has at least four people who live together.

Every ICF looks different, but usually people who live in an ICF share a bedroom. There are also some ICFs where everyone has their own bedroom.

If I want to live in an ICF can I choose where I live?

Yes, but you may not end up living in the first place that you choose.

You can choose an ICF

- that is near people you know,
- and that feels like the best fit for you.

Sometimes the ICF that you like the most will not have a space available for you, you may then place your name on a waiting list at that ICF or choose a different ICF.

If I live in an ICF what will the ICF pay for?

If you live in an ICF, the ICF provides the services that the people who live there need.

An ICF offers and pays for things like:

- help with getting dressed or help with taking a shower,
- help with laundry and cleaning,
- help learning and practicing new skills,
- day programming or help finding a job,
- help doing things that keep you healthy like taking medicine,
- rides to work, to the store or other places,
- many clinical services, such as nursing, therapy and psychological services

Your benefits help the ICF to pay for things like your meals and utilities.

If you live in an ICF, you are able to keep a monthly living allowance from your total social security or disability benefits.

Your providers

The people who get paid to help you with things like getting dressed, cooking food, taking medicine or finding a job are sometimes called providers.

They are called providers because they provide the services that you need.

If I live in an ICF can I choose my service providers?

Every ICF is different. Usually an ICF provider selects and hires staff that provide services to everyone that lives there. An ICF will oftentimes offer employment services and day programs or contract with outside providers to provide these services. An ICF usually decides what to offer for day programs.

You can make choices about which things you need someone to help you with and which things you want to do on your own.

You can make choices about how often you want ICF staff to provide some services. You can say things like “I want someone to help me with a showerevery day.” Some services might be part of a regular schedule, like help doing laundry one time every week.

If things change and you decide you do not want to live in your ICF anymore, you can decide to move out.

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

A waiver is one way to receive funding to help you pay for the services that you need to help you live your life in your home or other community-based setting.

If I get a waiver what things will the waiver pay for?

A waiver pays for services based on your assessed needs. Some examples are:

- help with getting dressed or help with taking a shower,
- help with shopping for food and cooking food,
- help to bring you meals,
- help with laundry and cleaning where you live,
- things like ramps and railings to make it easier to get around your house,
- help taking medicine,
- help doing things that keep you healthy like exercise,
- help finding a job or learning how to do a job,
- help going places,
- and some other services.

You do not pay for any of the services that the waiver pays for.

If I get a waiver, can I live by myself?

Some people who have a waiver live by themselves. Other people who have a waiver live with roommates, family or friends.

A waiver does not pay for things like a place to live (rent), food or utilities such as heat and electricity. You will need to use your own money to pay for those things. There may be programs that can help you pay part of the cost if your money is not enough. Your service and support administrator (SSA) can provide information about benefits and public programs that may help you with these costs.

If you want to live by yourself:

- talk with an SSA at your county board of developmental disabilities,
- ask them for information about programs that can help you pay for a place to live, for buying food and for paying for utilities like electricity and heat.

If I get a waiver can I choose where I live?

Yes, but you may not end up living in the first place that you choose.

You can choose your own place to live. Your SSA will help you find housing that meets your needs. Sometimes the place that you would like to live may cost more than you can pay, even with some money from programs that may pay part of your rent. Then you may have to choose a different place to live. You can also choose to live with someone who can share the cost of rent with you. Your SSA can help identify possible roommates to live with.

If I get a waiver can I choose my providers?

The people who get paid to help you with things like getting dressed, cooking food, taking medicine or finding a job are sometimes called providers.

They are called providers because they provide the services that you need.

With a waiver, you choose who will provide the services you need, including employment services or other day programs.

You can choose which things you want someone to help you with and which things you want to do on your own.

You can choose how often you want someone to provide a service.

You can say things like:

- "I need someone to come every day to help me cook meals."
- Or "I need someone to come one time a week and take me to the grocery store."

You can choose to work with an agency provider that has staff. Or you can choose to work with an independent provider that you choose yourself. Often people choose more than one provider. Your SSA will help you find providers for your waiver services and other providers such as doctors and dentists.

You can choose to work with a different agency or independent provider any time.

Thinking about Moving?

When I move to	A setting with waiver funding	An intermediate Care Facility or ICF
My house or apartment	My SSA can help me find a place to live. I can live with family or select my home from available rental properties in the community or homes with openings in the county where I want to live. If I choose not to live with family, I sign the lease with my landlord.	ICFs are located throughout the state. My SSA can help me find ICFs. I can visit the home and decide if I would like to live there.
My housemates	I meet others who have similar interests and we decide if we want to share a home. My housemates will help pay for the expenses. I can have up to 3 housemates.	The ICF has people living in it who will become my housemates if I decide to live there. Each ICF is licensed for a specific number of people. The smallest ICF serves 4 people. The largest serves over 100.
My support staff	I and my housemates select our providers from available certified providers. I have the right to select different providers for different services and to change providers at any time, as long as the provider is willing and able to provide care for me. The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities certifies providers.	The agency that operates the home hires, trains and supervises the staff who provide the care. The ICF is licensed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and is certified by the Ohio Department of Health.
My rent and other living expenses	I pay for my rent, food, utilities, cable, etc. with my social security or disability benefits and/or my paycheck. My housemates and I divide the rent and expenses evenly and what is left over I can spend or save. I may be able to get help paying for my rent and other living expenses. My SSA may help me find these benefits.	I keep $50 of my monthly benefit income for my personal spending and I keep the first $65 of my earned income each month. If I only receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), I get $30 each month. The rest of the money that I receive and/or earn is used to pay for the services I receive from the ICF as well as living expenses paid by the ICF.
My furnishings	I furnish my home myself. Resources may be available in the community to help me pay for furnishings. The SSA will help me look for possible resources, if needed.	My home is furnished by my provider. If I chose, I can bring my own furniture or decorations.

Changing my mind	I can use my waiver funding anywhere in Ohio. I can choose a different provider to serve me in my home, or I can choose to receive waiver services in a different community-based setting. If I decide to move to an ICF, I will need to give-up my waiver. If I choose to return to a community-based setting I can request a waiver from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.	I can receive services from any ICF provider anywhere in Ohio that is willing to provide care for me. If I wish to receive services from a different ICF provider, I need to find another ICF provider with a vacancy that is able to meet my needs. If I wish to no longer receive services in an ICF, I may request a waiver from the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, understanding that I may not move immediately.
My supports and services	My certified provider delivers services and supports according to my Individual Service Plan (ISP). The ISP is written by my SSA with input from myself and people important to me. The ISP is based on my individual needs and wants as communicated by me and the people important to me. My ISP can change when my needs change.	The ICF staff delivers services and supports according to my individual plan (IP). This plan is written by the ICF Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP) based on my individual needs and wants as communicated by me and the people important to me. My IP can change when my needs change.
Service coordination	My SSA coordinates my services and helps to maintain my waiver eligibility. The SSA writes the ISP that describes my services and supports based on what is important to and important for me.	The QIDP from the ICF is responsible for writing my individual plan based on what is important to and important for me. The QIDP also coordinates all my services.
Oversight	My SSA will talk to me and my provider to make sure I get the services written in my plan. My provider is certified by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and will have a compliance review completed at least once every 3 years.	The facility and my services are monitored and reviewed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities and the Ohio Department of Health for compliance with licensure and ICF rules, as well as all federal certification regulations. Compliance reviews are conducted at least once every 15 months.

Availability of other supports (OT/PT/Psych)	These other supports are accessed in the community based on my assessed need and are paid by my Medicaid card, the waiver, private insurance, private pay, or other community resources.	The ICF will provide the services I am assessed to need, or they will help me find a provider in the community to meet my needs. These services may be paid by the ICF, or paid for by my Medicaid card, private insurance, private pay, or other resources.
What will I do during the day?	I may work in the community and can choose the supports to help me do that. I may also attend a day program or choose community activities. These supports are coordinated by my SSA.	My ICF team may help me find work and will provide me with day program options. The ICF may provide these activities to me directly or contract with other agencies to do so. These supports are coordinated by my QIDP.
Transportation	Some provider agencies provide a company vehicle. In others, staff drive their own vehicles. If I am able, I can access public transportation. The provider is responsible for making sure I have transportation available.	Often a vehicle is owned and provided by each ICF so residents can go out into the community. If I am able, I can access public transportation. The provider is responsible for making sure I have transportation available.

Comparing DODD Waivers

DODD has three kinds of waivers that can pay for services for people who need them.

Level One Waiver – The Level One Waiver is often called L1 for short. The L1 Waiver is a good fit for people who do not need a lot of paid staff to provide services. Usually people using an L1 Waiver only need help with a few things or they have people who can help them with some of the things they need, like cooking meals, taking showers or driving places.

Individual Options Waiver – This waiver is often called the IO Waiver for short. The IO Waiver is a good fit for people who may need a lot of help in their home. It can also be a good fit for people who need a lot of different kinds of services.

Self-Empowered Life Funding Waiver – This waiver is usually called the SELF Waiver. It is a good fit for people who want to be in charge of some of their services. If you have a SELF Waiver, then you can be in charge of hiring and training the people that provide services to you. You can manage your budget for the services you want.

		Which waiver helps with this service?		
Type of service	**Pays for needed services like**	**Level 1**	**IO**	**SELF**
Personal Care	Someone to come and help you with things like getting dressed, keeping clean, making food	✓	✓	✓
Adult Day Support	Learning new things and going out with other people during the day	✓	✓	✓
Home Modifications	Someone to add ramps and railings to your home so you can get around better	✓	✓	✗
Respite	A break for people who help care for you that do not get paid to care for you	✓	✓	✓
Community Transition	Supports people as they transition from living in a facility to living in a house or an apartment, with others or on their own	✗	✓	✗
Career Planning (Includes Benefits Education and Analysis)	Helps people find jobs in the community, and includes services to help a person	✓	✓	✓
Assistive Technology	Provides technology that can support health and safety, and a person's desire for more independence	✓	✓	✓
Medical Supplies	Tools that help you keep you healthy, that help you get around or help you talk with people	✓	✓	✓
Employment	Help to get or keep a job	✓	✓	✓
Transportation	Help getting places	✓	✓	✓
Vocational	Provides learning and work experiences that help to develop skills that lead to integrated community employment	✓	✓	✓
Home Delivered Meals	Meals brought to your place that are ready to eat	✓	✓	✗
Remote Support	Tools that help the people who care for you make sure you are safe even when they are not with you	✓	✓	✓
Shared Living	Sharing a home with someone who is paid to help you	✗	✓	✗
Nursing	Hands-on care by a nurse for health-related services that can only be performed by a nurse	Through Ohio Medicaid State Plan	✓	Through Ohio Medicaid State Plan
Therapies	Physical therapy; occupational therapy, also called OT; or mental health services and counseling	Through Ohio Medicaid State Plan	Through Ohio Medicaid State Plan	Through Ohio Medicaid State Plan