



STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE
P.O. Box 740
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37202-0740

Se incluye la versión en español

CASEKEY CAT SEQNUM/DIDDwl
ADDR_NAM
ADDR1
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ADDR3

Date

**You are being referred to a new program
for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.**

On July 1, 2016, Tennessee started a new program for people with intellectual and other kinds of developmental disabilities. This new program is called **Employment and Community First CHOICES**. Services in the new program will help people become employed and live as independently as possible in the community. It will also help people who are not ready for a job prepare for one.

Someone will work with each person enrolled in the new program and their family. They will help them find out what's important **to** the person and **for** the person to live the life they want in the community. It will offer services and supports to help accomplish those things.

You've been on a waiting list for programs that provide home and community based services (HCBS) for people with an intellectual disability. These programs are operated by the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD). They include the:

- Self-Determination Waiver
- Statewide Waiver; and
- Comprehensive Aggregate Cap (or CAC) Waiver (formerly called the Arlington waiver).

Now that the new program has started, enrollment from the waiting list into the Self-Determination and Statewide Waivers has ended. Only certain members can enroll in the CAC waiver. They are:

- Members of the former Arlington class
- Current Clover Bottom class
- People leaving Greene Valley Developmental Center after staying there at least 90 days
- People leaving Harold Jordan Center after staying there at least 90 days

Other people who begin receiving HCBS will be enrolled in Employment and Community First CHOICES.

What does this mean for you?

You are **not** on the DIDD waiting list anymore. You are being moved to the new referral list for Employment and Community First CHOICES.

What do you need to do?

To be on the referral list for the new Employment and Community First CHOICES program, you don't have to do anything. You will automatically be placed on the referral list.

Not everyone on this list for the new program can enroll or get services right away. We hope to serve up to 1,700 people in the first year. This will include:

- People who have been on the waiting list for the HCBS waivers operated by DIDD.
- People who have a developmental disability who haven't had a waiting list to be on but also need supports.

Because services in Employment and Community First CHOICES will be more cost-effective, we expect to be able to serve more people than we do now. Some people may get the chance to see if they qualify to enroll in the new program sooner.

Who will get the chance to see if they qualify to enroll in the new program first?

Please read below and **TELL US** if you're in one of these groups.

You will get the first chance to see if you qualify for the new program IF:

- You have an intellectual disability **and** your primary caregiver (the person who provides most of your unpaid support) is age 75 or older.
- You have a job in the community (not a sheltered workshop) and need help to keep your job.
- You are age 18-22. You are about to finish school. **And**, you've found a job in the community that you can start when you finish school **if** you have the right help in place.
- You recently lost your job and need help to get and keep a new job.
- Your primary caregiver recently passed away or is permanently incapacitated (by a physical or mental health problem or disability). **And** there is no other caregiver available to support you.
- You are being abused, neglected or exploited where you live now. **And** you must move to prevent more abuse, neglect or exploitation. **And** you don't have any other place to live.
- You need these services to move out of a nursing home or an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID) into a home in the community.
- You or others are in immediate and ongoing risk of serious harm or danger. Other things have been tried but didn't help reduce the risk of serious harm. **And**, you need these services to help keep you and others safe. You have two or more complex health problems that keep you from being able to work. **And**, you are in urgent need of supports in order to keep living where you do now.

Is one or more of the things above true for you? If so, tell us. How? Fill out a self-referral for the new program online at: <http://tn.gov/tenncare>. It will ask you to tell us about yourself. This will tell us if you're in one of the groups that may qualify to enroll in the new program first. Be sure you check the box that says you've been on a waiting list for the HCBS waivers. We will also use the facts DIDD already has for you.

DIDD waitlist

This does **not** mean you will be enrolled in the new program. To be in the new program:

- You must qualify to enroll in the program.
- There must be room in the new program to enroll you.
- **AND**, you must be in one of the groups that can try to qualify for the new program first.

Do you need help to complete the self-referral? If you have TennCare and your health plan is Amerigroup or BlueCare, you can call them for free. Tell them you've been on a waiting list for the HCBS waivers and need help with a self-referral for Employment and Community First CHOICES. The toll-free numbers are listed below:

Amerigroup 866-840-4991

BlueCare 888-747-8955

What if you're **not** on TennCare? **OR**, what if United Healthcare Community Plan is your TennCare health plan? You can call your DIDD Regional Office for free. Tell them you've been on a waiting list for the HCBS waivers and need help with a self-referral for Employment and Community First CHOICES. Their toll-free numbers are listed below.

West Tennessee Regional Office 866-372-5709

Middle Tennessee Regional Office 800-654-4839

East Tennessee Regional Office 888-531-9876

What if you aren't in any of the groups that can see if they qualify to enroll in the new program first? You'll still be on the referral list for the Employment and Community First CHOICES program. Your category on the waiting list for the program will depend on what category you're in now on the waiting list for the HCBS waivers.

Are you listed as "deferred" on the waiting list for HCBS waiver programs? This means you don't want services right away. You just want to keep your name on the list. If you don't complete a self-referral, you will also be listed as "deferred" on the list for Employment and Community First CHOICES.

What if you're listed as "active," "urgent" or "crisis" on the waiting list for the HCBS waiver programs? If you don't complete a self-referral form, you will be "other active" on the referral list for Employment and Community First CHOICES. This means you want services now. But, you aren't in any of the groups that can see if they qualify to enroll first.

What if you **DO** complete a self-referral form? Then, we'll use that information to see if you're in one of the groups that may qualify to enroll in the program sooner.

Other groups that may open up (if there is still room to enroll new people) include:

- People age 18 to 22 who are about to finish school. They don't have a job yet, but want to work and need help to find and keep a job in the community.
- People of any age who don't have a job yet, but want to work and need help to find and keep a job in the community.
- Children age 14-21 who are planning to work when they leave school and need supports to get ready for work that they can't get from their school or Vocational Rehabilitation.

DIDD waitlist

Do you have questions about this letter?

If you have TennCare and your health plan is Amerigroup or BlueCare, you can call them for free. Tell them you've been on a waiting list for the HCBS waivers and have questions about Employment and Community First CHOICES. The numbers are listed below:

Amerigroup 866-840-4991
BlueCare 888-747-8955

What if you're not on TennCare? OR, what if United Healthcare Community Plan is your TennCare health plan? You can call your DIDD Regional Office for free. Tell them you've been on a waiting list for the HCBS waivers and have questions about Employment and Community First CHOICES. Their toll-free numbers are listed below.

West Tennessee Regional Office 866-372-5709
Middle Tennessee Regional Office 800-654-4839
East Tennessee Regional Office 888-531-9876

Do you have TennCare now and need help with this letter?

Is it because you have a health, mental health, or learning problem or a disability? Or, do you need help in another language? If so, you have a right to get help, and your health plan can help you.

- **BlueCare** can be reached for free at **800-468-9698**. If you have a hearing or speech problem you can call them on a TTY/TDD machine. Their TTY/TDD number is **800-226-1958**
- **Amerigroup** can be reached for free at **800-600-4441**. If you have a hearing or speech problem you can call them on a TTY/TDD machine. Their TTY/TDD number is **800-600-4441** (TTY 711)

What if you don't have TennCare and need help with this letter?

Is it because you have a health, mental health, or learning problem or a disability? Or, do you need help in another language? Call your DIDD Regional Office for free. Their toll free numbers are:

West Tennessee Regional Office 866-372-5709
Middle Tennessee Regional Office 800-654-4839
East Tennessee Regional Office 888-531-9876

If you have a hearing or speech problem, the Tennessee Relay Service (TNRS) can help you. Call them for free at **800-848-0298** and ask for the phone number for your regional office.

We do not allow unfair treatment in our program.

No one is treated in a different way because of race, color, birthplace, religion, language, sex, age, or disability. Do you think you've been treated unfairly? Do you have more questions? Do you need more help? You can make a **free call** to the **Tennessee Health Connection** at **855-259-0701**.