



Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES Waiver

What is ECF CHOICES?

- It is a new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver program administered through TennCare and managed by the MCOs that provides essential services and supports in a coordinated and cost-effective manner for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)
- The program promotes integrated employment and community living as the preferred outcomes for participants
- There are three (3) "benefit groups" based on the needs of persons served in that group and designed based on services individuals and families say they need most:
 - Essential Family Supports - supports for families caring for a person--primarily for children under age 21--living at home with their families
 - Essential Supports for Employment and Independent Living - targeted to young adults aging out of school to support transition into employment and independent community living
 - Comprehensive Supports for Employment and Community Living - for people who need more support to help them achieve employment and community living goals, including 24 hour residential supports when needed

Who is eligible?

- People with intellectual disability (ID) who were on the waiting list for Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) through the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD)
- People with other kinds of developmental disabilities (DD) not previously eligible for these programs
- Funding is available to serve approximately 1,700 people in the first year

How do I apply?

- You may access the Self-Referral form on the TennCare website and complete it online by going to <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/article/employment-and-community-first-choices-referral> or
- If you already have TennCare and your Managed Care Organization (MCO) is Amerigroup or BlueCare, you may contact them directly at the numbers below:
 - Amerigroup 866-840-4991
 - BlueCare 888-747-8955

Tell them that you want assistance completing the Self-Referral form for ECF CHOICES or

- If you have United Healthcare as your Managed Care Organization (MCO) or do not have TennCare, you may contact the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) at the numbers below:
 - West Tennessee Regional Office 866-372-5709
 - Middle Tennessee Regional Office 800-654-4839
 - East Tennessee Regional Office 888-531-9876

Tell them that you want assistance completing the Self-Referral form for ECF CHOICES

Where do I learn more?

- Visit the Fulfill the Promise website "Updates" page at <http://www.fulfillthepromise.org/Updates.html> to view a variety of materials that relate to the ECF CHOICES waiver
- Contact Carrie Hobbs Guiden at The Arc Tennessee at cguiden@thearctn.org