

Children's Long-Term Support Program

What is the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program?

The Children's Long-Term Support Program provides funding and support for families who have children with disabilities so they can care for their children at home and participate in their community. The CLTS Program is a *Home and Community-Based Service Medicaid Waiver*, which allows a state to use Medicaid funds in more flexible ways.

In Wisconsin, there are two long-term support programs for children: the **Children's Community Options Program (CCOP)** and the **Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Medicaid Waiver Program**. Both programs can help pay for supplies, services and supports above and beyond what private health insurance or the Medicaid card covers. Some examples include:

- Adaptive aides
- Home modifications
- Specialized equipment
- Parent training and education
- Peer supports
- Respite
- Vehicle modifications

Who is Eligible for the CLTS Waiver Program?

A child may be eligible if he or she has a significant disability and is living at home. A child's eligibility is based on his or her "functional limitations" and not just a diagnosis from a health care provider. This includes a **physical, mental or emotional limitation** that restricts a child's ability to carry out daily living activities, such as dressing or eating, or impacts learning, communicating or mobility.

Your child also needs to be eligible for **Wisconsin Medicaid**. For families whose income is above the Medicaid limit, their children may qualify for Medicaid through the Katie Beckett Program that looks only at a child's disability and not the parents' income - go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/kbp/index.htm

Enrolling in Long-Term Support Programs

- Contact your [County Human Services Department](#) and let them know you are interested in children's long-term support programs. A service coordinator will talk with you about the program and will meet with your family.
- Families who live in Adams, Columbia, Dane, Green, Jackson, Jefferson, Kenosha, LaCrosse, Lafayette, Marquette, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties can go directly to **CompassWisconsin: Threshold** (compasswisconsin.org). Threshold can help with intake, application and eligibility determination.

How is My Child's Eligibility Determined?

A screening tool called a "functional screen" will be used by a social worker or other county staff member. The screening tool collects information on your child's health, need for supports and how they play and interact with others. That information will be reviewed and a determination will be made by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

As the parent/family member, **your input and insights are an important part of the process!** Try to be as realistic as possible about your child's needs and abilities. To learn more about the functional screen, see the Family Voices fact sheet, [Completing a Functional Screen](#) at www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com/publications

What Happens Once My Child Qualifies and is Enrolled in the Program?

Your family will receive a letter from your county letting you know that your child has been enrolled in the CLTS Program and a service coordinator will be assigned to your family.

The service coordinator will meet with you to help you create an Individual Service Plan (ISP). As you talk with your child's service coordinator, think about long-term and short-term goals, also called outcomes, for your child. The ISP will include services to help your child and family meet these outcomes. (See the Family Voices fact sheet, [What Are Outcomes?](#) at www.familyvoicesofwisconsin.com/publications.)

For example, if an outcome for your child is to participate with his peers in the community, the ISP could include going to an inclusive summer camp. The CLTS Program would then directly pay for that summer camp. If an outcome is to allow your child who uses a wheelchair to more easily access your home, the CLTS Program could pay a contractor to install a ramp.

****Be Aware:** The CLTS Program will pay for services and products directly and funds cannot be used to reimburse families for the cost of services or products they have purchased. Families can be reimbursed for the cost of services and supplies if they are using Children's Community Options (CCOP) funds.

Will We Have a Wait for Services?

In the past, because counties had limited funding, an eligible child could be placed on a wait list for several years before they received services. However, new funding for CLTS in the 2017-2019 state budget means that most children who are eligible won't have to wait to be enrolled in the program. Please contact your Regional Center for more information and if you are placed on a long wait list.

If you have questions or need help finding services contact the following agencies:

- **Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs**, a network of 5 centers dedicated to supporting families who have children with special needs at dhs.wisconsin.gov/cyshcn/regionalcenters.htm
- **Wisconsin First Step**, a statewide information and referral hotline, at **1.800.642.STEP (7837)** or www.mch-hotlines.org/wisconsin-first-step