



Date: June 19, 2017

DMS Numbered Memo 2017-02

To: County Department of Human Services Directors
County Department of Social Services Directors
County Department of Community Programs Directors
County Department of Developmental Disability Services Directors
Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program Supervisors and Leads
County Department Financial Managers
Aging and Disability Resource Centers

From: Curtis Cunningham, Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis Cunningham".

**Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program:
Elimination of the Disability Determination Requirement**

Purpose

This memorandum communicates a change in the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program eligibility requirements for children applying for state-match-funded waiver services.

Background

Since January 2004, when the CLTS Waiver Program was initially approved and implemented, children who were determined to be functionally eligible through the CLTS Functional Screen tool, must also have been found to be disabled according to the requirements of the Disability Determination Bureau (DDB) to receive state-match-funded waiver services. The DDB is responsible for making the medical decisions for Wisconsin residents applying for the Social Security Administration's (SSA) various disability benefit programs, as well as several benefit programs offered by the State of Wisconsin.

Family Care, Partnership, and the Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) waiver programs no longer require individuals under age 65 who meet functional eligibility requirements and also meet eligibility for a full-benefit Medicaid program to obtain a disability determination in order to be enrolled in those programs.

In 2010, the Department of Health Services (DHS) waived the disability determination requirement as part of the CompassWisconsin: Threshold (CWT) unified intake pilot demonstration project. Seventeen counties currently participate in the CWT demonstration project, which includes a unified intake and eligibility determination process for the CLTS Waiver Program, Children's Community Options Program (CCOP), and the Katie Beckett Program.

Eliminating the disability determination requirement for children applying for state-matched CLTS waiver services in all counties will establish a consistent, statewide policy for waiver programs, which reduces administrative burdens, increases efficiencies for county waiver agencies and income

maintenance consortia staff, and the DDB. This change also streamlines the CLTS Waiver Program application process for children, and reduces delays in determining eligibility and access to waiver services to meet the needs of children and their families.

Policy

Effective July 1, 2017, disability determinations issued by the DDB will no longer be required as part of the eligibility process for children applying for the CLTS Waiver Program on a statewide basis.

Procedures

County waiver agencies will no longer need to require parents and guardians to seek a disability determination for their children through the DDB solely for the purpose of accessing state-matched CLTS waiver funds for that child.

The Children's Long-Term Support Functional Screen (CLTS FS) will be updated to reflect this change. When a family is seeking CLTS Waiver Program services for their child, the question asking if the child has a disability determination from the DDB or the Social Security Administration (SSA) will be removed.

A disability determination through the DDB continues to be an eligibility requirement for the Katie Beckett Program. The disability determination question will continue to display on the CLTS FS when a parent/guardian is requesting eligibility for their child for the Katie Beckett Program.

Information about how this policy change will be operationalized in CARES is outlined in the [DMS Operations Memo #17-27](#).

Summary

Effective July 1, 2017, children will no longer be required to be determined disabled through the DDB on a statewide basis during the CLTS Waiver Program eligibility process in order to access state-matched waiver funds.

MEMO WEB SITES

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dltc/memos/info/index.htm>

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dhcaa/memos/index.htm>