WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES

Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Application Renewal – Concept Paper

The Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Renewal initiative envisions the next five years of our service system for children with disabilities and their families in Wisconsin. Through the Renewal, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) continues to drive innovation to support children and their families inclusively. This initiative will explore modifications to the CLTS Waiver Program that require federal authority and how modifications can help DHS, partners, and stakeholders achieve a statewide program that builds on the strengths and resiliencies of children and families.

About the Waiver Renewal

The requested waiver renewal period is 1/1/2022 to 12/31/2027. DHS has identified three pillars to guide efforts to identify modifications.

Access/Eligibility

Identify changes to eligibility to ensure access to CLTS Waiver Program support for children with substantial needs.

Possible waiver changes:

- Add or remove target groups.
- Modify eligibility criteria for children under age 3.
- Coordinate care across children's disability programs.

Inclusion

Identify changes and supports to promote equity and inclusion for children with disabilities, including cultural inclusion.

Possible waiver changes:

- Add services, such as remote technology.
- Help participants become career ready.
- Eliminate the use of restraint and seclusion.
- Provide culturally specific care coordination and/or resources for participants.

Family-Focused

Identify changes that broaden the scope of serving the family as a unit.

Possible waiver changes:

- Promote social determinants of health.
- Add services to address the long-term impact of trauma.
- Support diverse family structures.
- Strengthen self-direction model to provide more autonomy.

Scope

In Scope	Out of Scope
• Helping children become work, relationship, and/or community ready • Eligibility, provider, and other considerations	• Payment model (fee-for-service vs. managed care) • Operational structure (counties and contractors)

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The Path Forward

The 2022 – 2027 CLTS Waiver Renewal initiative maps the vision for the program for the next five years. DHS is soliciting feedback from internal and external stakeholders, including participants and families, to build this vision together.

About Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

The Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver program is authorized in §1915(c) of the Social Security Act. DHS has broad discretion to provide an array of home and community-based services that assist beneficiaries to live in the community and avoid institutionalization. Waiver services complement and/or supplement services available through the Medicaid state plan and other programs as well as the supports that families and communities provide.

Background

Wisconsin's CLTS Waiver Program provides necessary supports and services to children from birth through age 21 with significant disabilities who meet functional, Medicaid financial and non-financial requirements, and reside within the community to prevent placement in an institutional setting.

The goal of the CLTS Waiver Program is to support children with substantial needs, as well as their parents/guardians, by delivering services to promote the goal of every child living their best possible life now and into the future.

A key tenet of the CLTS Waiver Program is that children are best served within the context of their family and community. DHS has continuously renewed this waiver since 2004 when it was initiated. The most recent renewal period includes 2017 – 2021.

Significant changes to the CLTS waiver over the past five years include:

- Establishing statewide rates for key waiver services.
- Securing federal approval to limit service coordination to state contracted county waiver agencies.
- Transitioning behavioral treatment, personal care, and nursing services to the Medicaid ForwardHealth benefit.
- Increasing enrollment by 40% in 2 ½ years with state funding to eliminate the waiting list.
- Launching a provider qualification review process and a state-level public directory of waiver providers.
- Updating requirements for reporting incidents involving CLTS participants through the new Children's Incident Tracking and Reporting system.
- Responding to COVID-19 by increasing access to remote services and altering contact standards.