

Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver Application Renewal–Proposal Summary

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 is exploring 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 CLTS Waiver Program was built on the adult program service framework. However, children and adults have very different needs. The waiver renewal initiative is our opportunity to consider how we can tailor the CLTS Waiver Program and its services to specifically meet the needs of children and families. The 2022–2027 CLTS Waiver Renewal initiative is building the vision of the program for the next five years with internal and external stakeholders, including participants and families.

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.

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.

Proposed Waiver Changes

Feedback from participants, families, counties, advocates, and other stakeholders have contributed to a reimagined CLTS Waiver Program that has new and improved services, a heightened focus on the needs of families, and a holistic approach to serving children and families.

Making our Program More Accessible

- Adding a new service, **Remote Supports and Equipment**, which provides a pathway for participants to get the equipment and related services they need to access CLTS waiver services being delivered remotely.
- Permitting program eligibility for children 0-5 to be determined based on certain diagnoses that result in an institutional level of care rather than using the functional screen.
- Allowing parents to be reimbursed for transporting their child to waiver services.

Changes at a Glance

- Eight new services
- Combining two services into one new service
- Rebranding four services
- Targeted supports for participant and family-direction
- Adding diagnosis-specific program eligibility for children 0-5
- Narrowing the types of permitted restrictive measures



Making our Program More Family-Focused

- Adding a new service, **Bereavement Counseling**, which is trauma-informed care that seeks to guide and help participants and/or their families cope with the participant’s terminal illness.
- Combining Relocation Services and Housing Counseling into a new service, **Housing Support Services**, which helps participants and their families navigate housing opportunities, address and overcome barriers to housing, and secure and retain housing.
- Updating service names and descriptions to be easily understood by families.

Making our Program More Inclusive

- Adding a new service, **Health and Wellness**, which promotes healthy lifestyles, non-traditional/alternative medicine and wellness, and sexuality education and parenting training for CLTS participants.
- Adding a new service, **Discovery and Career Planning**, which combines elements of traditional prevocational services with career planning and is based on the belief that all individuals can work when given the opportunity, training, and supports that build on an individual's strengths, abilities and interests.
- Narrowing the types of permitted restrictive measures to mechanical restraints that protect the safety of the participant. Other types of restraints, restrictive interventions, and seclusion will be prohibited.
- Adding a new service, **Safety Planning and Prevention**, which seeks to keep children safe in their homes and communities in the event of a safety or emergency event through planning, education, engagement, and meaningful partnerships to ensure child safety and well-being.

Guiding Pillars

Access/Eligibility

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

Family-Focused

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

Inclusion

- Identify changes and supports to promote equity and inclusion for children with substantial needs, including cultural inclusion.

Supporting Participant and Family-Direction

- Strengthening the supports offered to help participants and families direct their own services if they choose. Participant and family-direction expands families’ choice and control over their services and supports.
- Adding a new participant and family-directed service, **Participant and Family-Direction Broker Services**, which is designed to empower participants and their families to direct their services and supports by assisting in the securing and managing of participant and family-directed services.
- Adding a new participant and family-directed service, **Participant and Family-Directed Goods and Services**, which are services, equipment or supplies not otherwise provided through the waiver or other sources that address an identified need in the Individual Service Plan.
- Adding a new participant and family-directed service, **Translation Services**, which provides participants with Limited English Proficiency the opportunity to hire a translator to access community resources.

Next Steps

Individuals can submit feedback to us by emailing DHSCLTSWaiverRenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov. In the spring of 2021, we will post a draft application on our website available for public comment for 30 days. Then, we will address the feedback received and finalize the waiver for submission to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The approved waiver will take effect January 1, 2022, and operate through December 31, 2027.