

Iowa: Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver 101

Iowa currently has seven HCBS (Home & Community Based Services) Waivers in the Waiver Program that provides service funding and individualized supports to maintain eligible members in their own homes or communities who would otherwise require care in a medical institution.

** If a person is already on Title 19/Medicaid, they do NOT need to complete the entire application. Instead, they may go to their local DHS office and complete a one page sheet requesting waiver services for the appropriate waiver.

The Seven HCBS Waivers: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hcbs/waivers>

1. **Health and Disability (HD) Waiver** HD Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver (Health & Disability) is also referred to in some places as the Ill & Handicapped (IH). The IH waiver provides services for persons who are blind or disabled. An applicant must be less than 65 years of age for this waiver. These are the services you may receive if there is a need:

- Adult Day Care
- Counseling
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Personal Emergency Response
- Home Health Aide
- Homemaker
- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment
- Nutritional Counseling
- Home Delivered Meals
- Respite
- Nursing

2. **Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver** ID Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver provides services for persons who have been diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. (Requires an IQ score of 70 or below and be SSI eligible.) These are services you may possibly receive on this waiver:

- Adult Day Care
- Prevocational
- Day Habilitation
- Respite
- Home Health Aide
- Supported Employment
- Nursing
- Personal Emergency Response
- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Supported Community Living
- Supported Community Living-Residential Based
- Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment
- Transportation

3. **Brain Injury (BI) Waiver** BI Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#) *The*

BI waiver offers services for those who have been diagnosed with a brain injury due to an accident or illness. You must one month of age but less than 65 years of age for this waiver. (Requires being SSI eligible)

- Adult Day Care
- Case Management
- Family Counseling & Training
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Respite
- Supported Community Living
- Supported Employment
- Behavioral Programming
- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment
- Personal Emergency Response
- Prevocational Services
- Specialized Medical Equipment
- Transportation

4. **Physical Disability (PD) Waiver**

PD Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver provides services for persons who are physically disabled. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age, but less than 65 years of age. These are the services you may receive with this waiver:

- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Personal Emergency Response
- Specialized Medical Equipment
- Transportation

5. **Children's Mental Health (CMH) Waiver**

CMH Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver offers services for children who have been diagnosed with serious emotional problems. These are the services you may receive if there is a need for this waiver:

- Respite
- Environmental Modifications & Adaptive Devices
- In-Home Family Therapy
- Family & Community Support Services

6. **AIDS/HIV (AH) Waiver**

AH Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

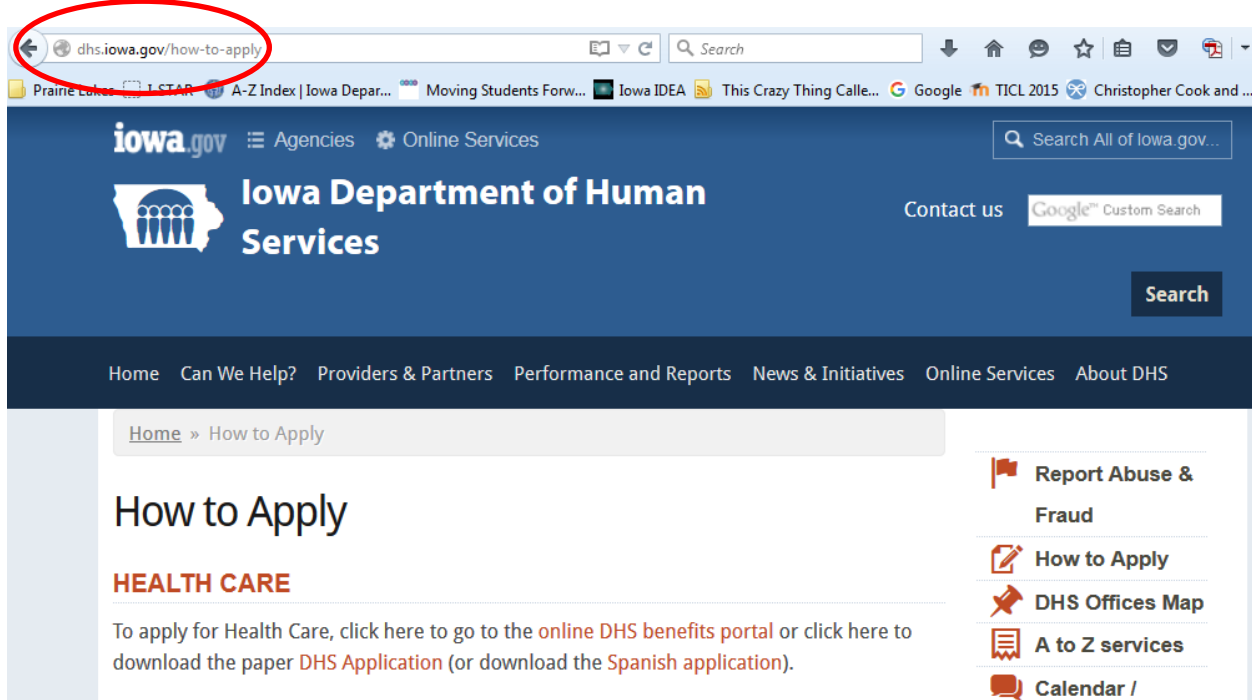
7. **Elderly (E) Waiver**

E Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

If you wish to learn more about the HCBS Waiver Program, please read the HCBS Waiver Program brochure, "[Are Home and Community Based Services Right for You?](#)"

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To apply for any waiver you can either apply online @ DHS Portal **or** by printing this [DHS Paper Application](#) (The paper application is recommended.) The online version is available in Spanish.



# WAIVER APPLICATION PROCESS

**IMPORTANT:** There is currently a 3+ year waiting list for most waivers, so helping families connect with these services sooner rather than later is critical. This conversation needs to begin no later than the student's freshman year.

## Steps:

1. If the child is already Medicaid eligible, parents only need to complete this [one page check sheet](#) to apply for waivers.
  - a. Remember: it is best to check multiple waiver options due to the waiting list.
  - b. Parents: make a copy for your files.
2. If the child is not Medicaid eligible, families can apply online for Health Care (Waiver services) or by downloading the paper copy below, which is recommended:
  - a. [Application for Health Coverage and Help Paying Costs](#) or
  - b. ([Solicitud de cobertura médica y asistencia para abonar el costo](#)).
    - i. Return completed form to your local DHS office.
    - ii. Be sure to keep a copy for your records.

## HELPFUL TIPS TO COMPLETING THE APPLICATION CORRECTLY:

1. There is NO PLACE on the paper application to request specific waivers, so you must do the following:
  - a. Write on the top of **EACH PAGE** of the application which waivers you are applying for (for example: Medicaid, ID, HCBS, BI...)
    - i. See "[Are Home & Community based Services Right for You?](#)" brochure for more information
2. On the top of Page 1 of 27, it states: **STEP 1: Tell Us About Yourself.**
  - c. This is information regarding the person/parent filling out the form (aka: the person to contact)
  - d. If you do not need health insurance for yourself, check **NO** and continue to add the next family person.

3. Each person in the household must be included on the application.
  - a. Example: Household member 1 & 2 may not need Medicaid, but Household member 3 does (also the waiver applicant), so then you would mark **YES** that Household member 3 needs health coverage and answer the remaining questions.
    - i. If the additional family members pages are not needed, put an X through the entire page but still include them in the application
  - b. Make a copy of the completed application for your file.
4. Be sure to **sign & date the application**
  - a. Sign and date on Both on page **15** & page **17**
5. As of May 2021, there is currently a minimum **3 year wait list** for the ID waiver.
  - a. **IMPORTANT:** To be eligible for the ID waiver, the student **MUST HAVE** an IQ test done prior to turning age 18
6. The applicant/family will get a letter stating the applicant “has been denied” after approximately 45 days. KEEP this letter!
  - a. **NOTE:** This letter simply means the applicant has been put on the waiting list until a slot opens - - it does NOT mean that they are refused services permanently.
7. Eventually, the applicant should receive a letter stating they are OFF the wait list!!  
YAY! 😊 (This is why applying early is important!)
8. **IMPORTANT:** IF the family moves any time after they initially complete the application, it is **CRITICAL** that they update their new address with DHS.
  - a. Families only have 30 days after receiving notification that they are off the waiting list to respond, or the entire application process must be started over.
9. Once a student is connected with a waiver, they will initially be assigned to a Managed Care Organization (MCO) with a case manager.
  - a. Families must use one unit of service each quarter to maintain eligibility: this can include Respite/SCL services, etc.

**\*\* REMEMBER:** If a person is already on Title 19/Medicaid, they do **NOT** need to complete the entire application. Instead, they may go to their local DHS office and complete a one-page sheet requesting waiver services for the appropriate waiver(s).