

END THE WAIT

Tennessee must commit government resources to expand Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS) for people with intellectual disability (ID)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish reasonable, **MAXIMUM WAITING PERIODS FOR THE “CRISIS” CATEGORY** of the Waiting List.
- Implement the proposed **“EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNITY FIRST CHOICES” (ECF) WAIVERS** that focus on transition aged students with ID and developmental disability.
- Target enrollment of **TRANSITION-AGED STUDENTS AND PEOPLE WITH PRIMARY CAREGIVERS AGE 75 AND OVER** into one of the capped Medicaid Waivers.
- Ensure eligibility criteria for LTSS is **REFLECTIVE OF THE NEEDS** of people with ID.
- Implement proposed revisions to the current **MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES WAIVERS (HCBS)** to include:
 - Person Centered Planning
 - Flexibility, cost effectiveness and cost containment
 - Self-directed options, and family/individual budget control
 - Services based on the person’s assessed functional levels of need rather than on program criteria

6,240 PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY ON THE WAITING LIST AS OF JULY 30, 2015

CRISIS: 92	URGENT: 407	ACTIVE: 3,766	DEFERRED: 1,975
Homeless No caregiver Imminent danger to self or others Needs services immediately	Significant risk of abuse/ neglect Caregiver aging or in ill health Needs services soon	Requested services but does not meet Crisis/ Urgent criteria	Requesting services more than 12 months in the future

BACKGROUND

- Limited funding means that **only** people in the **“crisis”** category get off the waiting list and enrolled into waiver services.
- Little movement on the Waiting List means that many young adults **lose critical skills** they learned in schools.
- Without supports, parents, siblings, or other relatives are often **forced to quit work** to care for their family members with ID.
- Many families face **poverty** due to the added costs of supporting a person with ID.

