

OASIS · AT A GLANCE

Michigan's Three Waivers: HSW, MI Choice, and the Children's Waiver

Three separate waivers, three eligibility tests, three application doors. Knocking on the wrong one costs months, and nobody at any of these offices is going to tell you that you are in the wrong line.

PILLAR: WHERE, WHAT | COMPANION TO BLOG POST B162 | 2-PAGE BRIEF

3

DOORS, NOT ONE

Separate waivers, separate eligibility, separate offices.

How to sort yourself in ten minutes

LEVEL OF CARE FIRST

STAGE 1

Find the level of care

Each waiver is keyed to an institution. ICF/IID level of care for two of them, nursing facility level of care for the third.

→

STAGE 2

Find the door

Two waivers are entered through your CMHSP. The third is entered through a regional MI Choice waiver agency. They are not the same office.

→

STAGE 3

Get on the right list

Slots are allotted by region. Priority rules exist and are written down. Ask which one applies to your family member.

The three waivers, compared

ELIGIBILITY AND DOORS

Which waiver, which test, which door

The three Michigan home and community based waivers on the questions that determine eligibility.

QUESTION	HSW	MI CHOICE	CHILDREN'S WAIVER
Ages served	No age limit	18+ with a disability, or 65+	Under 18
Level of care	ICF/IID	Nursing facility	ICF/IID
Apply through	Your CMHSP	Regional waiver agency	Your CMHSP
Capacity	7,481 slots	Capped, regional lists	Capped
Income test	Medicaid rules	\$2,982 per month	Parent income not counted
Asset test	Medicaid rules	\$9,950 single	Medicaid rules

7,481

HSW slots statewide

Held at any given point in the year, allotted region by region across the PIHPs.

3

Priority groups

Private duty nursing at 21+, Children's Waiver transitions, and high risk of institutional placement.

6

Months of lead time

Children's Waiver transition planning should begin at least 6 months before eligibility ends.

THE YEAR WE LOST TO THE WRONG PHONE NUMBER

“

“We spent fourteen months on a list. My son needed the Habilitation Supports Waiver and I had put him on a MI Choice list because a friend told me that was the one.”

REPORTED BY A MACOMB COUNTY PARENT.

THE TAKEAWAY

Michigan never printed a map, and the offices holding the pieces have no reason to assemble one for you. Ask which door this is before you get in line.

TURN THE PAGE

The document checklist, the application sequence, and what to ask for in writing at each step.

Getting on the right list

ASK, DOCUMENT, ESCALATE

CONFIRM

Before you call anyone

- ☐ Verify Michigan Medicaid is active, not lapsed
- ☐ Confirm the disability began before adulthood
- ☐ Locate the most recent psychological or developmental evaluation
- ☐ Get a physician letter on round the clock support needs
- ☐ Note the living situation and bed count if licensed

SORT

Establish level of care

- ☐ Ask for the level of care determination to be completed
- ☐ Request a written copy of the result
- ☐ ICF/IID points to HSW or the Children's Waiver
- ☐ Nursing facility level of care points to MI Choice
- ☐ If unsure, ask which test was applied and why

APPLY

Go to the right office

- ☐ HSW and Children's Waiver: your local CMHSP
- ☐ MI Choice: your regional MI Choice waiver agency
- ☐ Find either through MDHHS or by dialing 2-1-1
- ☐ Get the name and title of everyone you speak to
- ☐ Ask for the application packet in writing

PROTECT

Lock in your position

- ☐ Ask whether your region is holding a list, in writing
- ☐ Ask which priority group applies and have it documented
- ☐ Get your placement date in writing
- ☐ Ask for any denial in writing so it can be appealed
- ☐ Log every call with date, name, and what you were told

BRING ONE PAGE, NOT A BINDER

The waiver application sheet

01

Identity

Medicaid ID, date of birth, and confirmation the case is active.

02

Level of care

Which determination was done, by whom, and the result.

03

Priority

Which of the three priority groups applies, and why.

04

Dates

When you applied, who recorded it, and your position if known.

YOUR MOVE

When you cannot get a straight answer about the list

1

Ask in writing

Email beats a phone call every time.

2

Name the waiver

Say which of the three you mean, by name.

3

Invoke the priority

State the group and ask that it be documented.

4

Request the denial

A verbal no cannot be appealed.

5

File the appeal

Medicaid fair hearing, with your dated log attached.

If your child is 17, say the words "Children's Waiver transition to Habilitation Supports Waiver" this week. That priority expires unused.

SOURCES

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Habilitation Supports Waiver program page and approved waiver application MI.0167, including slot capacity and service array.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. MI Choice Waiver Program, including the waiver agency region map and financial eligibility limits.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Children's Waiver Program eligibility and application through community mental health services programs.

CMH Partnership of Southeast Michigan. Habilitation Supports Waiver program information, approximately 7,500 beneficiaries served.

Wayne State University Developmental Disabilities Institute. Habilitation Supports Waiver overview: 7,481 slots, PIHP regional allotment, and the three priority groups.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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