

HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES & SUPPORTS

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and supports are critical for the many West Virginians who want to remain in their own home rather than move to an institutional setting. According to the 2020 Disability Compendium which is a report completed by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, found that there were 19.89% West Virginians with disabilities.

Home and Community Based Services available in WV include:

- Medicaid personal care services, a mandatory Medicaid service for those who need services and are income eligible;
- The IDD waiver program for people with developmental disabilities who need assistance to live in their communities and enjoy a full life
- The Aged and Disabled waiver program for individuals who have deficits making them eligible for nursing home care but who want to remain in their own homes.
- The Traumatic Brain Injury waiver provides services to a small number of individuals who are also eligible for nursing home care but choose to remain in their community.
- Home health or outpatient services that are medically oriented and assist people who have medical needs but choose to remain at home.
- “Take Me Home West Virginia” is a five year federally funded, Money Follows the Person project that helps individuals in nursing homes and state hospitals move back into the community by providing relocation expenses and coordinating access to services in the community.

- Senior centers also provide nutrition programs, a variety of social programs, and adult day care in some areas of the state.
- Other state funded services, such as “Lighthouse” and private pay services

When these services and supports are underfunded and have long waiting lists, it can result in:

- People being forced into nursing homes who do not want or need this type of institutional care
- Higher costs to the State as the cost of nursing home care is more than twice that of HCBS

In looking at the costs of the various programs it becomes clear that home and community-based services are far more cost effective.

Our society is changing and the ability to remain in your community has become a mantra for the “baby boomers” and will be a continuing challenge for those who determine the best use of state dollars.

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