Medicaid Waivers in Illinois for Children with Disabilities and/or Chronic Illnesses

A waiver is a program that provides services that allow individuals to remain in their own homes or live in a community setting, instead of in an institution. Each waiver is designed for individuals with similar needs and offers a different set of services. Illinois currently has nine waivers. Six of them serve children: [https://hfs.illinois.gov/medicalclients/hcbs.html](https://hfs.illinois.gov/medicalclients/hcbs.html)

A child generally needs to be income eligible for Medicaid (where parental income is counted up to age 18) to access a Medicaid waiver but in Illinois parental income is not a factor for three child Medicaid waivers:

- (Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver (care coordination managed the Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) at the University of Illinois (UIC))
- Support Waiver for Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities (DD)
- Residential Waiver for Children and Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Family income is a factor (and therefore the child under age 18 must be low income/Medicaid eligible - parental income is counted) for these three waivers managed by the DHS Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) for persons under age 60:

- Persons with Brain Injury
- Persons with HIV or AIDS
- Persons with Disabilities
Illinois also has several adult waivers, including the Supportive Living Program, Waiver for Adults with Developmental Disabilities, for Persons Who are Elderly and Persons with Disabilities.

**General Eligibility**

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or qualified non-citizen (non-qualified non-citizens - i.e. undocumented individuals are not eligible)
- Low income -Medicaid eligible (except where parental income is not counted -MFTD waiver, Child DD Support Waiver, Child DD Residential Waiver
- Resident of Illinois

**To apply**

Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver (MFTD) up to age 21 -contact DSCC: [https://dscct.uic.edu/](https://dscct.uic.edu/) to send email from webpage; or call 1-800-322-3722

Child DD Support or Child DD Residential Waiver, age 3 -21. -Register your child on the waiting list (PUNS) through your Independent Service Coordination (ISC): Find your ISC here (use Developmental Disabilities as “office type” in dropdown: [https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12](https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12)

DRS waivers that children may access (includes Persons with Disabilities -under age 60; Persons with Brain Injury -any age, Persons with HIV/AIDS -any age) contact local DRS office: [https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12](https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12) and select as “office type” “Rehabilitation Services” from drop down menu and You can apply for DHS-DRS services online here: [Rehabilitation Services Web Referral](https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12)

To apply for Medicaid (all must apply -even where parental income is waived as in the MFTD waiver, Child DD Support and Child DD Residential waivers) apply online: [https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/](https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/); or apply by mail, in person at your local Family Community Resource Center (FCRC), or by phone: 1-800-843-6154.
Resources if not able to access a waiver?
Illinois Respite Coalition has emergency voucher stipends for caregiver emergencies including stress-reduction up to $500.00:
http://www.illinoisrespitecoalition.org/emergency-respite.html
See also: http://www.illinoisrespitecoalition.org/ for In-Home Respite Care up to 180 hours annually for individuals with an intellectual or developmental who have not been pulled from the PUNS list.

DHS operates 6 Crisis Nurseries for children up to age 6:
https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=35563

Some communities/regions may offer support services for families in a specific locale. Examples include:

✓ Community 708 Boards: https://www.fsaelgin.org/blog/page-4/what-is-a-708-board.php
✓ Respite care for family caregivers age 60 and older (grants from Illinois Department on Aging): Caregiver Support Program: https://ilaging.illinois.gov/programs/caregiver.html
✓ Department of Aging (DoA) Grandparents Raising Grandchildren: Caregiver Resource Centers: https://ilaging.illinois.gov/programs/caregiver/crc.html
✓ Some Special Recreation programs may offer after school and/or school vacation services: https://www.specialrecreation.org/ Financial assistance may be available.

CRSA (Community and Residential Services Authority): https://crsa.illinois.gov/ works with families of children with behavioral disorders or severe emotional disturbances, schools and communities to develop a support plan by means of Family Support Grants.

Illinois Advocacy Organizations & Waiver related organizations
• The Arc of Illinois: https://www.thearcofil.org Family to Family Health Information Center and Illinois Life Span program
• Equip for Equality: https://www.equipforequality.org/
• Access Living: https://www.accessliving.org/
• MFTD waiver families: https://www.mftdwaiver.org