



NC Innovations Waiver Overview

Purpose of the Waiver

- The North Carolina Innovations Waiver is a Medicaid program for the funding of services and supports for people with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities that are at risk for institutional care in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID)

Goals of the Waiver

- To value and support people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to be fully functioning members of their community
- To promote Promising Practices that result in real life outcomes for participants
- To offer service options that will facilitate each participant's ability to live in homes of their choice, have employment or engage in a purposeful day activity of their choice and achieve their life goals

Goals of the Waiver

- To provide the opportunity for all participants to direct their services to the extent that they choose
- To provide opportunities and support to foster the development of stronger natural support networks and enable participants to be less reliant on formal support systems

Why is it Called a Waiver?

- Certain Medicaid requirements are waived:
 - State-wideness – Services are available only in areas of the state participating through an MCO – Alliance in Cumberland, Durham, Harnett, Johnston, Mecklenburg and Orange and Wake counties
 - Comparable services – NC Innovations Services are only available to those participating in the Waiver
 - Deeming of income and resources – Children or spouses may be eligible for the waiver even if the total household income would typically make them ineligible for Medicaid

Administrative Functions

- Alliance Health manages the local operations of the waiver such as:
 - Coordinating access to services,
 - Reviewing and authorizing services,
 - Maintaining a provider network, and
 - Reimbursing providers for approved services
- Each individual participating in the Innovations waiver will be assigned a care coordinator from Alliance to assist throughout the process of accessing waiver supports

Administrative Functions

- Participants have free choice of companies within the Alliance Provider Network to deliver the waiver services

Number of Participants

- The number of Innovations Waiver participants is managed on a statewide basis
- New individuals can come onto the waiver if a previous recipient comes off the waiver and does not come back on within that waiver year
- Additional people may be served on the waiver if the North Carolina General Assembly provides more funding to serve more individuals

Eligibility

- Not everyone who is Medicaid eligible is eligible for NC Innovations
- Alliance regularly reviews requests for potential eligibility
- People who are considered to be potentially eligible are added to the Registry of Unmet Needs
- As waiver slots become available, people are offered to have their eligibility for the Innovations Waiver determined in the order they were added to the Registry

Eligibility

- To be eligible for the NC Innovations Waiver, an individual must meet the following criteria:
 - A documented diagnosis of a developmental disability or related condition that was manifested prior to the age of 22 and is likely to continue indefinitely
 - Substantial functional limitations in self-care, understanding and use of language, learning, mobility, self-direction, and/or the capacity for independent living, AND
 - Would benefit from services and supports to promote the acquisition of skills and to decrease or prevent regression

Available Services

- NC Innovations offers services intended to increase the ability of an individual with a disability to participate more fully in their home and community
 - Services include direct supports to increase life skills in the family home, their own home, or a group home or alternative family living (AFL) setting
 - Services in the waiver also include day programs or supported employment
 - The waiver can provide support to connect individuals to their community and other resources

Available Services

- NC Innovations offers services intended to increase the ability of an individual with a disability to participate more fully in their home and community
 - Equipment or devices to increase an individual's health and safety or independence may be covered under the waiver
 - Modifications to increase an individual's access to their home or vehicle could also be covered

Planning for Services

- A formal support plan is developed at least annually to address each person's needs and support their goals
- Services are planned with a support team and are requested in conjunction with the support plan
- All services must be able to be provided within a specified budget and be approved for medical necessity
- NC Innovations contains the framework for participants to self-direct services and supports

Accessing the Waiver

- In order to participate in the Innovations Waiver, the individual or their guardian must contact Alliance Member and Recipient Services at 800-510-9132
- The time and date of the initial request to receive NC Innovations is recorded
 - If determined potentially eligible for the waiver, they will be placed on the Registry of Unmet Needs based on that date and time

Accessing the Waiver

- Open slots are offered in chronological order based on the length of time the person has been waiting on the Registry of Unmet Needs