

Fact Sheet

The Community Employment Support (CES) Waiver for Arkansans with Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities

1. What is the Community Employment Support Waiver, and who can get it?

The CES Waiver offers services in your community to support clients with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) with all major life activities, such as living independently and working at a job with help from an employment coach. The program promotes inclusion for clients through community experiences and provides care coordination for getting services. The goal of the waiver is simple: it helps clients with IDD to live in the community rather than in an institutional setting such as a nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility.

You may hear people refer to these as “waiver” services, “DD waiver” services, or home and community-based services. These services are not generally covered by traditional Medicaid, which provides health care and non-emergency transportation.

Arkansans of all ages with IDD may apply. There is a waitlist for services through the waiver.

Because waiver programs have different eligibility rules than traditional Medicaid, your family may not currently be eligible for traditional Medicaid Health Care benefits but may still be eligible for waiver services.

2. How can I apply for the CES Waiver?

To get started, contact the Intake and Referral helpline in the DHS Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) at 501-683-5687. A specialist will help you with the application.

3. What happens after I apply?

Once you apply, a clinical review team will review your medical records to decide if your level of care needs meet the waiver requirements. They look at:

- Any diagnosis or condition you may have and whether it is expected to continue indefinitely
- Whether you meet level of care requirements showing that substantial support is needed in at least three of five areas: self-care, understanding and use of language, learning, mobility, self-direction, or ability to live independently

If you have the required level of care need, you will be placed on the CES Waiver waiting list. As of October 2020, about 4,500 people are waiting for a CES Waiver slot. Right now, it takes about 10 years from the time you are placed on the waiting list to the time you can begin accessing waiver services.

- If you need Health Care coverage while you are on the waiting list, you can apply through the Access Arkansas website at access.arkansas.gov to find out if you are eligible for programs like traditional Medicaid, ARKids First, or TEFRA.
- You also may apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Medicaid at ssa.gov/benefits/ssi.

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4. Once I can get waiver services, how long will I be able to participate in the program?

Once you start to get CES Waiver services, you can continue to get the services as long as you meet program eligibility and are actively participating in the program by following your person-centered service plan developed for you each year.

5. What happens if I am on the waiting list?

If you are placed on the CES Waiver waiting list, you will remain on the waiting list until a CES Waiver slot becomes available. Eligible clients on the waiting list move into waiver slots based on when they were added to the waitlist. You will get a letter each year from DDS to update your contact information.

You can find out your waitlist number by email at DHS.DDS.Waiver.AU@dhs.arkansas.gov or by calling 501-683-0569.

If you apply and are approved for Medicaid, you can get these services while on the waiting list:

- Primary Care Physician (PCP)
- Physician Specialists
- Personal Care
- Durable Medical Equipment
- Occupational, Physical, & Speech Therapy
- Hospital Services
- Medicines
- Outpatient Behavioral Health Counseling
- Early Intervention Day Treatment – evaluation as well as therapeutic, developmental, and preventative services provided by a licensed pediatric day treatment clinic
- Adult Developmental Day Treatment – assessments, supervised living services, and educational services provided by a licensed adult day treatment clinic

* Some specialized services require a PCP referral and evaluation.

6. What happens when I am offered a waiver slot?

Those on the CES Waiver waiting list are offered a slot based on when they were approved for the waitlist. When a CES Waiver slot becomes available, you will get a letter from DDS letting you know your status and any next steps that you will need to take.

You can expect to have an independent assessment and be assigned to a Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE) to manage your CES Waiver services. CES Waiver services include:

- *Care Coordination* - includes collaborating on care planning and goals, medication management, and service coordination through a person-centered service plan (PCSP)
- *Respite* - temporary direct care and supervision for a client due to the absence of the primary giver or to provide a break for the caregiver
- *Supported Employment* –helps clients reach their goals of working in integrated workplaces for pay; services include career planning, support at a work site, and job coaching
- *Supportive Living* - services and activities to help clients live in their own home, with family or in a setting such as an apartment or provider-owned group home

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- *Community Transition Services* – help with set-up expenses for clients who are transitioning from an institutional or provider-operated living arrangement, such as an intermediate care facility or group home, to a living arrangement in a private home where the client or client’s guardian is directly responsible for his or her own living expenses
- *Supplemental Support* – provides for additional support if unforeseen needs arise to avoid disrupting the client’s services or placement

7. What is a PASSE?

The PASSE is a program that serves Medicaid clients with complex behavioral health, developmental, or intellectual disabilities, including clients on the CES Waiver. There are three PASSEs that monitor and coordinate their clients’ health care needs to keep them healthy and help them reach their goals.

- **Arkansas Total Care** | 1-866-282-6280 | www.arkansasotalcare.com
- **Empower Healthcare Solutions** | 1-866-261-1286 | www.getempowerhealth.com
- **Summit Community Care** | 1-844-405-4295 | www.summitcommunitycare.com
- **CareSource** | 1-833-230-2005 | www.caresource.com/arkansas

Clients are randomly assigned to a PASSE to manage their care once they are approved for the CES Waiver or added to the CES Waiver Waitlist (if you are getting Medicaid as a result of being disabled and meet income eligibility requirements). Then clients have 90 days to switch to a different PASSE if they wish. Once a year during Open Enrollment, clients also may choose to switch PASSEs.

8. Where can I learn more about the CES Waiver and PASSE program?

To learn more about the PASSE program, visit passe.arkansas.gov or call 1-833-402-0672. Contact the DDS Intake and Referral helpline at 501-683-5687 if you have more questions about the CES Waiver or your status on the waiting list.