

# Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Renewal: Summary of Changes

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The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' (DHS) renewal of the Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) § 1915(c) waiver for home and community-based services and the CLTS § 1915(b)(4) waiver. These waivers must be renewed with CMS every five years. The approved waivers are effective January 1, 2022.

## Children's Long-Term Support § 1915(c) Waiver Changes

Feedback from participants, families, counties, advocates, and other stakeholders contributed to a reimagined CLTS Waiver Program that incorporates child-focused services and supports, a heightened emphasis on the needs of families, and a holistic approach to serving children and families.

*The goal of the CLTS Waiver Program is to support children with substantial needs, as well as their parents/guardians, by delivering services to promote the goal of every child living their best possible life now and into the future.*

### Access/Eligibility Enhancements

- **Virtual Equipment and Supports** is a new service that provides a pathway for participants to get the equipment and related services they need to access CLTS waiver services being delivered remotely.
- Program eligibility for children 0 through 5 may be determined based on certain diagnoses that result in an institutional level of care.
- Parents may be paid to transport their child to CLTS services.

### Family-Focused Enhancements

- **Grief and Bereavement Counseling** is new trauma-informed service that seeks to guide and help participants and/or their families cope with the possible death of the child and the aftercare of the family due to the child's death.
- **Housing Support Services** reimagines the previous Housing Counseling service and helps participants and their families navigate housing opportunities, address and overcome barriers to housing, and secure and retain housing.
- New expectations and requirements for county waiver agencies around transition planning for youth, including the age at which transition planning must start, required discussion topics, and documentation sharing.
- Updated service names and descriptions to be easily understood by families.

### Changes at a Glance

- New services
- Rebranding and updating existing services
- Targeted supports for participant and family-direction
- Adding diagnosis-specific program eligibility for children 0 through 5
- Narrowing the types of permitted restrictive measures



## Inclusive Enhancements

- **Health and Wellness** is a new service that promotes healthy lifestyles, non-traditional/alternative medicine and wellness, sexuality education, and parenting training for CLTS participants.
- **Discovery and Career Planning** is a new service that combines elements of traditional prevocational services with career planning and is based on the belief that all individuals can work when given the opportunity, training, and supports that build on an individual's strengths, abilities and interests.
- **Communication Assistance for Community Inclusion** reimagines communication aid supports in the program and includes communication aids necessary to facilitate and assist participants with hearing, speech, communication, or vision impairment, including individuals with Limited English Proficiency.
- Manual restraints and isolation/seclusion are no longer eligible for DHS approval for planned use. Mechanical restraints and protect equipment remain eligible for DHS approval.
- **Safety Planning and Prevention** is a new service that seeks to keep children safe in their homes and communities in the event of a safety or emergency event through planning, education, engagement, and meaningful partnerships.

## Guiding Pillars

### Access/Eligibility

- Identify changes to eligibility to ensure access to CLTS Waiver Program support for children with substantial needs.

### Family-Focused

- Identify changes that broaden the scope of holistically serving the child and family.

### Inclusion

- Identify changes and supports to promote equity and inclusion for children with substantial needs, including cultural inclusion.

## Supporting Participant and Family-Direction

- Strengthened the supports offered to help participants and families direct their own services. Participant and family-direction expands families' choice and control over their services and supports.
- **Participant and Family-Direction Broker Services** is a new participant and family-directed service that is designed to empower participants and their families to direct their services and supports by assisting in the securing and managing of participant and family-directed services.
- **Participant and Family-Directed Goods and Services** is a new participant and family-directed service that includes services, equipment or supplies not otherwise provided through the waiver or other sources that address an identified need in the Individual Service Plan.

## Children's Long-Term Support § 1915(b)(4) Waiver Renewal

DHS received approval for its CLTS § 1915(b)(4) application, in concurrence with the CLTS Waiver Program § 1915(c) waiver renewal application. This approval allows DHS to limit the delivery of CLTS support and service coordination to qualified persons who are employed by county waiver agencies or their sub-contracted case management entities.

## Next Steps

These changes are in effect from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026. DHS will be sharing more information with families, counties, providers, and other stakeholders in the coming months.