

Iowa: Home & Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver 101

Iowa currently has seven HCBS (Home & Community Based Services) Waivers in the Waiver Program that provides service funding and individualized supports to maintain eligible members in their own homes or communities who would otherwise require care in a medical institution.

** If a person is already on Title 19/Medicaid, they do NOT need to complete the entire application. Instead, they may go to their local DHS office and complete a one page sheet requesting waiver services for the appropriate waiver.

The Seven HCBS Waivers: <http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hcbs/waivers>

1. **Health and Disability (HD) Waiver** **HD Waiver Information Packet:** → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver (Health & Disability) is also referred to in some places as the Ill & Handicapped (IH). The IH waiver provides services for persons who are blind or disabled. An applicant must be less than 65 years of age for this waiver. These are the services you may receive if there is a need:

- Adult Day Care
- Counseling
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Personal Emergency Response
- Home Health Aide
- Homemaker
- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment
- Nutritional Counseling
- Home Delivered Meals
- Respite
- Nursing

2. **Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver** **ID Waiver Information Packet:** → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver provides services for persons who have been diagnosed with intellectual disabilities. (Requires an IQ score of 70 or below and be SSI eligible.) These are services you may possibly receive on this waiver:

- Adult Day Care
- Prevocational
- Day Habilitation
- Respite
- Home Health Aide
- Supported Employment
- Nursing
- Personal Emergency Response
- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Supported Community Living
- Supported Community Living-Residential Based
- Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment
- Transportation

3. **Brain Injury (BI) Waiver** **BI Waiver Information Packet:** → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#) *The*

BI waiver offers services for those who have been diagnosed with a brain injury due to an accident or illness. You must one month of age but less than 65 years of age for this waiver. (Requires being SSI eligible)

- Adult Day Care
- Case Management
- Family Counseling & Training
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Respite
- Supported Community Living
- Supported Employment
- Behavioral Programming
- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Interim Medical Monitoring & Treatment
- Personal Emergency Response
- Prevocational Services
- Specialized Medical Equipment
- Transportation

4. **Physical Disability (PD) Waiver**

PD Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver provides services for persons who are physically disabled. An applicant must be at least 18 years of age, but less than 65 years of age. These are the services you may receive with this waiver:

- Consumer Directed Attendant Care (CDAC)
- Home & Vehicle Modification
- Personal Emergency Response
- Specialized Medical Equipment
- Transportation

5. **Children's Mental Health (CMH) Waiver**

CMH Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

This waiver offers services for children who have been diagnosed with serious emotional problems. These are the services you may receive if there is a need for this waiver:

- Respite
- Environmental Modifications & Adaptive Devices
- In-Home Family Therapy
- Family & Community Support Services

6. **AIDS/HIV (AH) Waiver**

AH Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

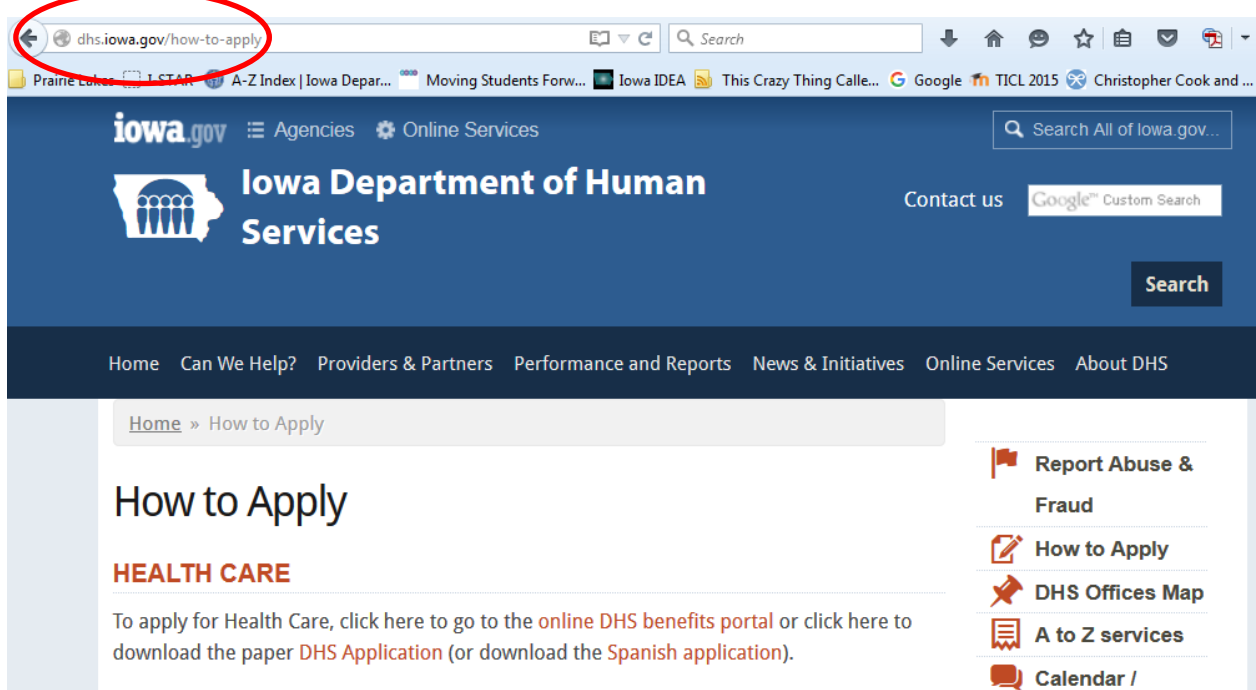
7. **Elderly (E) Waiver**

E Waiver Information Packet: → [In English](#) / [En Espanol](#)

If you wish to learn more about the HCBS Waiver Program, please read the HCBS Waiver Program brochure, "[Are Home and Community Based Services Right for You?](#)"

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To apply for any waiver you can either apply online @ DHS Portal **or** by printing this [DHS Paper Application](#) (The paper application is recommended.) The online version is available in Spanish.



# WAIVER APPLICATION PROCESS

**IMPORTANT:** There is currently a 3+ year waiting list for all waivers, so helping families connect with these services sooner rather than later is critical. This conversation needs to begin no later than the student's freshman year.

## Steps:

1. Complete the paper copy of application from the above link.
2. There is NO PLACE on the paper application to request specific waivers, so do the following:
  - a. Ask your DHS office if they have a cover sheet that you can add to check the waiver(s) for which you want to apply. Some offices have this, and some do not.  
\*\* You may check **more than one waiver** when you apply.
  - b. If your DHS office does not have a cover sheet, then simply **WRITE ON THE FRONT OF THE APPLICATION** the waiver(s) for which you want to be considered.
3. Make a copy of the completed application for your file.
  - a. On that copy, record the date you filed the application.
  - b. If you call in regarding the application process, be sure to record the name of the person you talk to and the date of your call.
4. As of September 2015, there is currently a minimum **3 year waiting list** for ALL waivers. ☹
5. The applicant/family will get a letter stating the applicant "has been denied" after approximately 45 days. KEEP this letter!
  - **IMPORTANT:** This letter simply means the applicant has been put on the waiting list until a slot opens - - it **does NOT mean that they are refused services** permanently.
6. Eventually, the applicant should receive a letter stating they are OFF the wait list!! YAY!
  - **IMPORTANT:** IF the family moves any time after they initially complete the application, it is **CRITICAL** that they update their new address with DHS. Families only have 30 days after receiving notification that they are off the waiting list to respond, or the entire application process must be started over.
7. Once an applicant has a slot, they will be assigned a case manager/worker.
  - Once families are off the waiting list, they must use 1 unit each quarter per year to maintain eligibility, but this can include Respite/SCL services, etc.

\*\* **REMEMBER:** If a person is already on Title 19/Medicaid, they do NOT need to complete the entire application. Instead, they may go to their local DHS office and complete a one page sheet requesting waiver services for the appropriate waiver(s).