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# Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers

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## Who are we?

- According to the CDC, approximately 23.6 % of adults in Georgia have some type of disability
- Rev Up Georgia is a statewide non partisan network of individuals and groups dedicated to increasing participation in the electoral process by People with Disabilities

## What are Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers?



- Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers are an optional service for states to provide. **They allow people with disabilities to receive services and care in the community, as opposed to in an institution.**
- There are five Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers in Georgia.
  - New Options Waiver (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) : for Georgians with developmental disabilities
  - Independent Care Waiver (ICWP) : for Georgians with significant physical disabilities and traumatic brain injury
  - SOURCE and Community Care Program (CCSP) : for Georgians that are elderly and have disabilities

## Why are they important?



- Medicaid waivers enable people with disabilities to live in their community, as opposed to a nursing facility or intermediate care facility. They are truly **the lifeline to the community**.
- Saving Georgia money. Past studies have found **states save \$57,338 per participant** when you compare the cost of receiving services via a Medicaid home and community based waiver with that of an institutional setting<sup>1</sup>.
- Over **38,000** Georgians rely on Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers for their lives.
- Over **7,000** Georgians remain on the waiting lists for a waiver, barring them from accessing the services they desperately need<sup>2</sup>.

**Please consider advocating for additional funding in the state budget for the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, as well as the Department of Community Health specifically to enable more Georgians to move off the waiting lists for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waivers.**

**Contact us at [revupgeorgia@gmail.com](mailto:revupgeorgia@gmail.com) with any questions!**

<sup>1</sup> Harrington, C, et al. "Do Medicaid home and community based service waivers save money?" *Home Health Care Serve Q*, vol 30, issue 4, 2011, pp 198-213, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22106902>

<sup>2</sup> Data from the Georgia Department of Community, current as of 6/30/18.