

Service Guidelines:

1915(i) Waiver Services



Overview

Vaya Health (Vaya) currently manages 1915(b)(3) services, which offer a critical set of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to NC Medicaid members with significant behavioral health needs and intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Because Behavioral Health and I/DD Tailored Plans will operate under North Carolina's 1115 Demonstration Waiver, they will not be able to provide services under 1915(b)(3) authority. To ensure people maintain access to HCBS when Tailored Plans launch, North Carolina is transitioning 1915(b)(3) services to 1915(i) services, which all Tailored Plans will offer. NC Medicaid Direct members (including individuals enrolled in the Tribal Option) and members of the Children and Families Specialty Plan will also have access to 1915(i) services.

Along with this transition, which will occur by July 1, 2023, North Carolina is expanding the populations eligible for some of these services. Find more information on the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) [1915\(i\) Fact Sheet](#).

1915(i) Waiver Services Evaluation

First, care managers complete the independent assessment. Vaya organizes the data from the assessment into the eligibility spreadsheet and sends the information to NCDHHS or an identified vendor.

NCDHHS or an identified vendor must complete an evaluation to determine the services for which the member is eligible before the provider can submit a 1915(i) service authorization request (SAR).

Independent Assessment

Assigned care managers (either from Vaya or an approved Tailored Care Management entity) will work with members and their families to complete the [independent assessment](#) to identify the member's needs and the 1915(i) services from which they would benefit. The assessment will also inform a service plan for 1915(i) services that will be incorporated into the member's care plan, also known as an Individual Support Plan (ISP).

Community Living and Supports

Overview

Community Living and Supports is an individualized or group service that helps the member live successfully in their own home or the home of their family/natural supports and be an active participant in their community. This service was called In-Home Support under the 1915(b)(3) waiver.

Community Living and Supports services help the member learn new skills or practice and/or improve existing skills. A paraprofessional helps the member learn new skills and/or supports the member in individualized activities that align with the member's preferences. The intended outcome of the service is to increase or maintain the member's life skills or provide the supervision needed to empower the member to live in the home of their family/natural supports or in their own home, maximize self-sufficiency, increase self-determination, and enhance the member's opportunity to fully participate in their community.

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Populations Served

Community Living and Supports services are available to people age 3 and older with a primary diagnosis of I/DD or traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Service Criteria

Participants must have at least one functional deficit in an activity of daily living (ADL) or instrumental ADL (e.g., meal preparation) and benefit from skill acquisition, monitoring, or supervision in at least one area of support.

Service Codes

- T2012 U4 – Comm Living & Supp Individual 1915(i) only in the community non-EVV
- T2012 GC U4 – Comm Living & Supp Indiv relative as provider lives in home non-EVV
- T2013 HQ U4 – Comm Living & Supp Group 1915(i)
- T2013 TF U4 – Comm Living & Supp Individual 1915(i)

Community Transition

Overview

Community Transition provides one-time funding for initial setup expenses to a member transitioning from an institutional or other approved setting into their own private residence, where they will be responsible for their own living expenses. This service was called One-time Transitional Costs under the 1915(b)(3) waiver.

Community Transition can support a member being diverted from entry into Adult Care Homes (ACHs) or any institutional level of care due to preadmission, screening, and diversion efforts, provided that the member is moving to a living arrangement where they are directly responsible for their own living expenses.

Populations Served

Community Transition services are available to people age 18 and older with one of the following:

- I/DD
- TBI
- Serious mental illness (SMI)
- Severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI)

Service Criteria

Participants must be moving to a community living arrangement and need initial set-up expenses and/or items.

Service Code

H0043 U4 i – Community Transition 1915(i)

Individual and Transitional Support

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Overview

Individual and Transitional Support will consolidate the following services from 1915(b)(3) waiver into one service:

- Individual Support
- Transitional Living Skills
- Intensive Recovery Supports

This service provides structured, scheduled interventions to improve a member's ability to manage instrumental activities of daily living (IADL) and promote independent functioning in the community.

Populations Served

Individual and Transitional Supports are available to people with one of the following:

- SMI
- SPMI
- Serious emotional disturbance (SED) – age 16 and older
- Substance use disorder (SUD)

Service Criteria

Participants must have at least one deficit in an IADL (e.g., meal preparation).

Service Codes

- T1019 U4 i – Individual & Transitional Support 1915(i)
- T1019 U4 TS i – Individual & Transitional Support 1915(i) (non EVV and only in the community)

Respite

Overview

Respite services provide periodic support and temporary relief to primary caregiver(s) from the responsibility and stress of caring for a child or adolescent member ages 3-20 with a mental health disorder or SUD or for a child, adolescent, or adult member with an I/DD or a TBI.

This service supports the primary caregiver(s) to meet or participate in planned or emergency events, and to have planned breaks in caregiving. Respite may include in- and out-of-home services, inclusive of overnight, weekend, or emergency care (family emergency-based, not to include out-of-home crisis). Respite may be provided in an individual or group setting.

This service will cover Respite services previously covered under the 1915(b)(3) waiver.

Populations Served

Respite is available for primary caregivers of people with a(n):

- SED (ages 3-20)
- SUD (ages 3-20)

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- TBI
- I/DD

Service Criteria

Participants must be unable to care for themselves in the absence of their primary caregiver(s).

Service Codes

- H0045 HQ U4 i – Respite Group Child 1915(i)
- H0045 U4 i – Respite 1915(i)

Supported Employment

Overview

This service will cover Supported Employment services previously covered under the 1915(b)(3) waiver.

Supported Employment services provide assistance and skill development for a member receiving 1915(i) services to explore, seek, choose, acquire, maintain, increase, and advance in competitive integrated employment (CIE) or develop and operate a micro-enterprise, based on individual circumstances and need.

Populations Served

Supported Employment services are available to people age 16 or older with an I/DD or a TBI.

Service Codes

- H2023 HQ U4 – SE Initial Group
- H2023 U4 – SE Initial
- H2026 HQ U4 i – SE Maint Group
- H2026 U4 – SE Maint

Service Criteria

Participants must either not have achieved CIE or have had interrupted or intermittent CIE. Supported Employment services may be either temporary or long-term.

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Individual Placement and Supports

Overview

Individual Placement and Support is a person-centered behavioral health service with a focus on employment and education. This service helps members who have not achieved CIE, or whose CIE is interrupted or intermittent to choose, acquire, and maintain CIE.

Populations Served

Individual Placement and Supports are available to people age 16 or older with one of the following:

- SPMI
- SMI
- SED
- SUD

Service Codes

- H2023 HQ U4 – SE Initial Group
- H2023 U4 – SE Initial Individual
- H2026 HQ U4 – SE Maint Group
- H2026 U4 – SE Maint Individual

Service Criteria

Participants must:

- Have expressed the desire to work at the time of entrance to the program; AND
- Have an established pattern of unemployment, underemployment, or sporadic employment OR educational goals that relate to employment goals; AND
- Require help obtaining or maintaining employment in addition to what is typically available from the employer because of functional limitations and behaviors associated with their diagnosis.