

1915(i) Overview

Resource Guide (External Use)



State Plan Amendment: 1915(i) Option

NC Medicaid 1915(i) services help eligible youth and adults with needs related to mental health, substance use disorder (SUD), intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD), and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI) live safely and independently in their homes and communities.

Vaya Health (Vaya) members who receive 1915(i) services have support from a Care Manager or a 1915(i) Care Coordinator. Members who participate in Tailored Care Management are assigned a Care Manager who works for Vaya (plan-based) or a provider organization (provider-based) and who oversees a wide scope of services and supports to meet the member’s needs. A 1915(i) Care Coordinator works for Vaya and focuses specifically on coordinating 1915(i) services.

Process Overview

	Step	Timeframe
<pre> graph TD A[Referral / Confirm Continuation of Services] --> B[Assessment / Reassessment] B --> C[Eligibility Determination] C --> D[Care Planning] D --> E[Service Authorization Request SAR] E --> F[Ongoing Coordination and Monitoring] F --> A </pre>	Referral/Confirm Continuation of Services	Care Manager/Care Coordinator outreaches member within 48 hours
	Assessment/ Reassessment	This occurs within 14 days of referral for 1915(i) services and annually (45 to 60 days prior to the eligibility expiration)
	Eligibility Determination	Carelon, independent evaluator for the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), completes within 14 calendar days
	Care Planning	Full care plan developed once 1915(i) service provider identified and within 60 days of eligibility approval
	Service Authorization Request (SAR)	Vaya’s Utilization Management Team reviews within 14 days (within seven days beginning July 1, 2026); service delivery begins within 45 days of care plan approval and SAR (if required)
	Ongoing Coordination and Monitoring	Care Manager/Care Coordinator makes monthly contact with the member; quarterly monitoring (with exceptions)

Members Are Eligible If They...

- Are ages 3 or older and have at least one of the following conditions: serious mental illness (SMI), severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI), serious emotional disturbance (SED), severe SUD, I/DD, or TBI
- Meet eligibility criteria for a specific service and need extra help with daily activities at home or in the community
- Have a Medicaid plan through Alliance Health, Partners Health Management, Trillium Health Resources, or Vaya (Tailored Plan or NC Medicaid Direct); *OR* are enrolled in Healthy Blue Care Together (Children and Families Specialty Plan) or Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Option Care Management

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Not Eligible/Exclusions		
<p>Members receiving similar support through other services or programs cannot receive 1915(i) services at the same time. Exclusions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Individuals enrolled in the NC Innovations Waiver or the TBI Waiver.</i> These waivers already cover many of the same services, such as Respite, Supported Employment, and Community Living and Support. • <i>Individuals enrolled in an NC Medicaid Standard Plan.</i> These beneficiaries must first transition to a Tailored Plan, NC Medicaid Direct, or Healthy Blue Care Together to access 1915(i) services. • <i>Individuals who receive other services that are considered duplicative and cannot be received at the same time as 1915(i) services.</i> Review the relevant NC Medicaid Program Specific Clinical Coverage Policies for additional information. 		
1915(i) Services and Eligibility		
<p>To participate in 1915(i) services, the member must be willing to engage in monthly telephone contacts and quarterly monitoring to review service provision (with some services requiring monthly monitoring).</p>		
Service	What It Is	Eligibility Criteria
Individual and Transitional Supports	Helps members build skills to live independently and manage daily routines	<p>Has one or more of the following conditions and meets age requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUD (ages 16 and older) • SED (ages 16-21) • SMI/SPMI (ages 18 and older)
Community Living and Support	Focuses on building independence at home and the community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 3 and older • Has one or more of the following conditions: I/DD and/or TBI
Supported Employment	Helps members obtain and maintain job placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 16 and older • Has one or more of the following conditions: I/DD and/or TBI
Individual Placement and Support	Helps members obtain and maintain job placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 16 and older • Has one or more of the following conditions: SMI, SPMI, SED, and/or SUD
Respite	Provides periodic and planned caregiver relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has one or more of the following conditions and meets age requirements: ages 3-21 for SED, SUD, and SMI; ages 3 and older for I/DD, and/or TBI • Lives in non-licensed setting with unpaid caregiver(s)
Community Transition	Provides assistance with funding transitions to independent living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ages 18 and older • Has one or more of the following conditions: I/DD, TBI, SUD, SMI, and/or SPMI

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- [1915\(i\) Training \(Vaya Provider Central\)](#)
- [Medicaid 1915\(i\) Service Authorization Guidelines](#)
- [NC Medicaid Program Specific Clinical Coverage Policies](#)
- [NC Medicaid 1915\(i\) Services](#)
- [NC Medicaid 1915\(i\) Toolkit](#)
- [1915\(i\) Assessment Tool](#)

Every step you take to link members with the right supports helps fulfill Vaya's mission to connect people with the services and supports they need to live their best lives.