

Protect Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services

What are HCBS?

Home and community-based services (HCBS) provide opportunities for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive services in their own homes or communities rather than institutions or other isolated settings. Medicaid-covered HCBS support people with disabilities with activities of daily living in settings of their choice, including private homes, assisted living facilities, group homes, and adult day centers.

NJ HCBS include: Medicaid Managed Long Term Services and Supports (MLTSS), the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Supports Program (SP) and Community Care Program (CCP), and personal care assistance (PCA), among other services.

Why are HCBS potentially at risk?

- The federal government changed rules involving who qualifies for NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid, how much federal funding will go to states to pay for Medicaid services, and how states may raise money to support their Medicaid programs. These rule changes are part of H.R.1 or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," (OBBBA) signed in law in July 2025.
- Budgetary constraints, resulting from H.R.1, may result in difficult decisions for the availability of HCBS for NJ FamilyCare members and their caregivers.
- Historically, during periods of economic uncertainty or fiscal pressure, states have cut one or more HCBS.
- The concern whether NJ will feel pressured to cut HCBS services due to less federal funding, reduced state Medicaid revenue, and potentially tighter state budgets.

How to protect HCBS?

- The state must consider increasing funding for NJ FamilyCare to protect access to HCBS for people with disabilities who rely on HCBS every day.
- Policymakers must explore how to safeguard existing HCBS and avoid harmful cuts.
- People with disabilities and caregivers can communicate the importance of HCBS, emphasizing the harm of any potential cuts, to their local representatives, lawmakers, state agencies, and the governor's office.
- Take action through The Arc to help ensure no further federal cuts to HCBS.

Questions?

Email: healthcareadvocacy@arcnj.org

The Arc Action
Center

