

Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services for Individuals with IDD



What are intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)?

Developmental disabilities are conditions that begin during an individual's developmental period, may affect day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime. Examples include Down syndrome, autism, and cerebral palsy.¹

Intellectual disability is a disability that involves limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior (the conceptual, social, and practical skills people use in everyday life).²

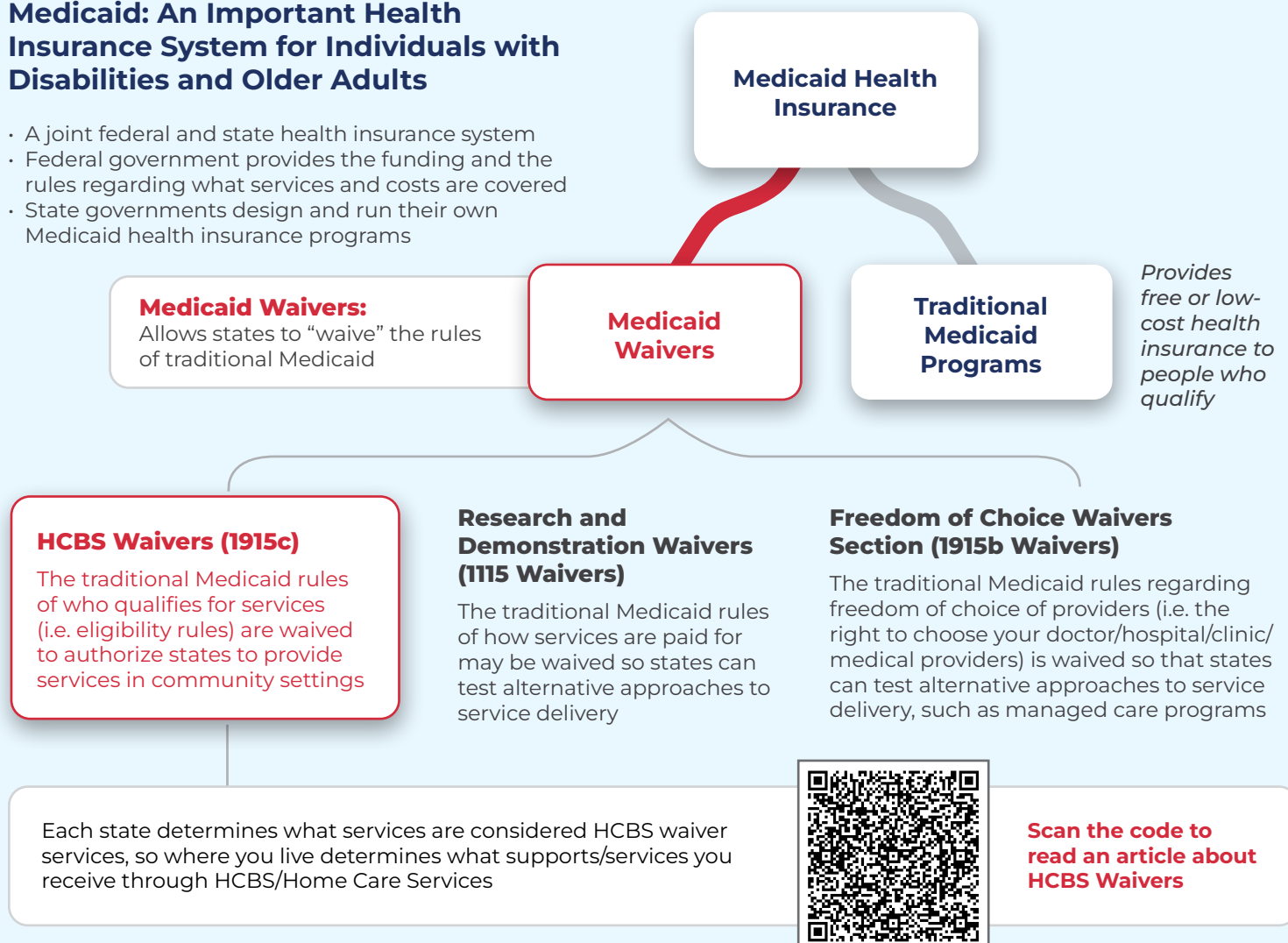
Intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) is a term used to refer to the broad community of people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities, including individuals who have both. Most individuals with Down syndrome have some level of intellectual disability.

What is Medicaid?

Medicaid is an important **health insurance system and support service system** for individuals with disabilities, including individuals with IDD such as Down syndrome, and older adults.

Medicaid: An Important Health Insurance System for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults

- A joint federal and state health insurance system
- Federal government provides the funding and the rules regarding what services and costs are covered
- State governments design and run their own Medicaid health insurance programs



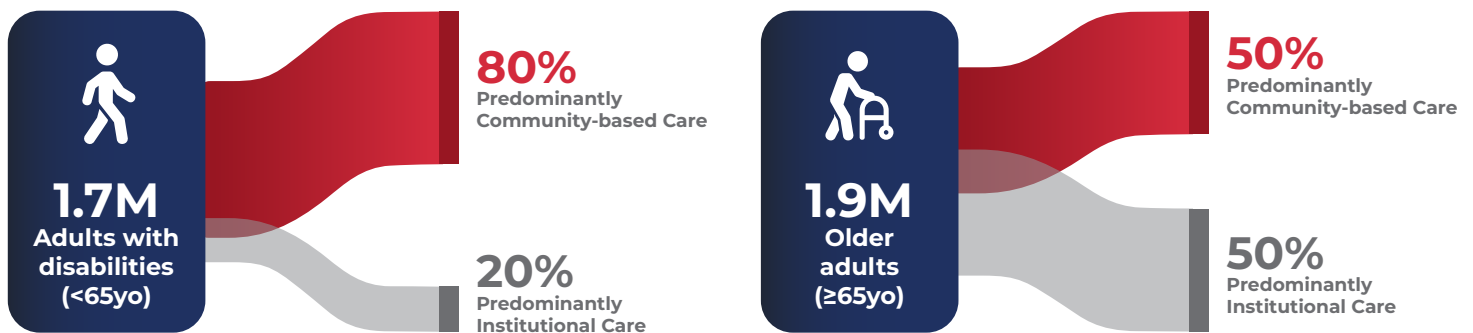
Medicaid: An Important Support Service System for Individuals with Disabilities and Older Adults



Individuals with Down syndrome and other IDD are the population most frequently served by HCBS waiver programs.³



As compared to older adults, adults with disabilities predominantly live in community settings (80%) as compared to institutions/ICFs (20%)⁴



! Key Takeaway

Cutting HCBS would shift the cost for support services for individuals with IDD to institutional settings instead of community settings.

The Olmstead decision mandates that states provide services to people with disabilities in the most integrated setting appropriate.

References

- 1: <https://www.cdc.gov/child-development/about/developmental-disability-basics.html>
- 2: <https://www.aaid.org/intellectual-disability/definition>
- 3: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/medicaid-home-care-hcbs-in-2025/>
- 4: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/medicaid-and-long-term-services-and-supports-a-primer/>

Additional Resources

National Level Resources

[Disability and Medicaid](#)

[IDD and Medicaid](#)

[LTSS](#)

State Level Resources

[Medicaid Enrollees Using Home Care Services \(HCBS\)](#)

[Medicaid State Profiles](#)

[Home and Community Based Services Impacts Tracker Project](#)

[NDSS Medicaid Resources](#)



NDSS Medicaid Advocacy Toolkit

