



SC Waiver Waitlists Fact Sheet

SC Waiver Waitlists: Supporting Families in Need

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers allow individuals with disabilities to receive support in their communities instead of institutions. South Carolina operates three waiver programs:

- **ID/RD Waiver:** Designed for individuals with Intellectual Disabilities/Related Disabilities.
- **Community Supports Waiver (CS):** Supports individuals living at home or in the community.
- **HASCI Waiver:** For those with Head and Spinal Cord Injuries.

Each waiver offers services that go beyond Medicaid to ensure individuals can live safely in the community rather than in institutions.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for a waiver, individuals must:

- Have a qualifying disability or injury.
- Be eligible for Medicaid.
- Require institutional-level care.
- Choose to receive community services.

Current Waitlist Numbers

As of November 2024, South Carolina faces extensive waitlists for these essential services:

- ID/RD Waiver: 19,295 individuals waiting.
- CS Waiver: 15,511 individuals waiting.
- HASCI Waiver: 325 individuals waiting.

Challenges and Impact

- Long wait times (5+ years) leave families without crucial supports.
- Overlapping waitlists exacerbate delays.

Call to Action

Advocate for reduced waitlists to support health and safety for South Carolina's families.



Addressing Mental Health for Individuals with IDD Fact Sheet

Mental Health Challenges for Individuals with IDD

The Mental Health Gap

South Carolina faces critical challenges in supporting individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who also experience mental health conditions. Misdiagnosis, inadequate resources, and stigma contribute to unmet needs, leaving many without the care they deserve.

Key Challenges

- **Diagnostic Complexity:** Communication barriers and overlapping symptoms delay or misdirect diagnoses.
- **Limited Specialized Training:** Few providers and mental health professionals have specialized training in both IDD and mental health, resulting in fragmented care.
- **Inadequate Resources:** Long wait times and a lack of specialized services hinder timely interventions.
- **Behavioral Misinterpretation:** Challenging behaviors are often attributed to IDD alone, masking underlying mental health issues.
- **Medication Management:** Balancing psychiatric medications and IDD treatments is complicated by communication gaps and risk of side effects.
- **Stigma and Misunderstanding:** Mental health conditions in the IDD population remain stigmatized, reducing advocacy efforts and access to care.

Call to Action for Legislators

1. **Invest in Training Programs:** Fund specialized training for providers and mental health professionals to ensure comprehensive care for individuals with IDD and mental health needs.
2. **Expand Services:** Increase resources and infrastructure to address the shortage of dual diagnosis providers in South Carolina.
3. **Streamline Diagnosis and Care:** Develop guidelines to improve diagnostic accuracy and integrated treatment pathways.
4. **Advocate for Funding:** Allocate funding for specialized programs and advocate for insurance reforms to expand coverage for dual diagnosis care.
5. **Combat Stigma:** Promote awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and improve understanding of mental health in the IDD community.



South Carolina as a Technology First State Fact Sheet

Advancing Inclusion Through Technology

The need for services for people with developmental disabilities continues to increase while at the same time resources to keep up with the demand is becoming more and more challenging.

What is Technology First?

Technology First promotes systems where technology is considered first in support options for individuals with developmental disabilities. This framework enhances independence, inclusion, and quality of life.

Benefits

- Greater self-reliance at home, work, and in the community.
- Reduced dependence on paid staff.
- Improved provider capacity despite workforce shortages.

Action Plan for South Carolina

- Pass a resolution declaring South Carolina a Technology First State.
- Define clear goals and values for the initiative.

Call to Action

- **Adopt a Technology First Approach:** Advocate for South Carolina to prioritize technology to improve services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- **Support Legislative Action:** Advocate for funding to provide technology access for consumers and families, and champion a resolution to declare South Carolina a Technology First State. This initiative will promote self-reliance, inclusion, and equitable opportunities for individuals with IDD.
- **Engage the Community:** Raise awareness about the benefits of integrating technology to expand provider capacity and reduce costs.

By prioritizing technology, South Carolina can drive innovation and improve lives.



Advocacy and Legislative Engagement Fact Sheet

Your Voice Matters: Advocacy for Services

Empowering South Carolinians to advocate for equitable services and impactful legislation, this approach provides individuals and families with the steps and tools needed to effectively engage with lawmakers and drive meaningful change.

Steps to Advocacy

- 1. Identify Your Needs:** Be clear about what services you or your loved one require.
- 2. Understand Your Rights:** Familiarize yourself with laws like the ADA and Medicaid guidelines.
- 3. Prepare Your Story:** Share how access to services impacts your life.

How to Contact Legislators

- Use clear, concise messaging.
- Personalize your story to highlight its importance.
- Be respectful and professional.

Sample Letter

Dear [Legislator's Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I live in [Your City]. I urge your support for [Issue or Bill]. This is critical for individuals like me/my loved one because [reason]. Thank you for your time.

*Best regards,
[Your Name]*

Call to Action

- **Contact Your Legislators:** Share your story and advocate for impactful policies.
- **Raise Awareness:** Highlight challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in your community.
- **Take Action Today:** Urge representatives to prioritize funding and services.