

Employment and Community First CHOICES

These are the groups that may qualify to enroll in the program and get services now.

These are people who need services **right away** because they have the most urgent needs. Other eligibility rules also apply.


We may have limited space to enroll these groups NOW:	What our rules say:*	What it means:
Aging Caregiver (Required by state law)	Pursuant to T.C.A § 33-5-112 as amended, the older custodial parent or custodial caregiver of an individual who has an intellectual disability and who is at least 75 years of age OR the older custodial parent or custodial caregiver of an individual who has a developmental disability and who is at least 80 years of age.	You have an intellectual disability. AND, your parent or other unpaid caregiver that provides most of your support is age 75 or older OR you have a developmental disability AND, your parent or other unpaid caregiver that provides most of your support is age 80 or older
Emergent Circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person’s primary caregiver is recently deceased and there is no other caregiver available to provide needed long-term supports. OR, the person’s primary caregiver is permanently incapacitated and there is no other caregiver available to provide needed long-term supports. • Services/supports in ECF CHOICES are urgently needed because of the recent loss of the person’s living arrangement, including (as applicable), caregiver supports provided in that living arrangement that will not be available to the person going forward. • There is clear evidence of serious abuse, neglect, or exploitation in the current living arrangement. The person must move from the living arrangement to prevent further abuse, neglect or exploitation, and there is no alternative living arrangement available. • The person is being discharged from an acute care setting and is at imminent risk of being placed in a NF setting absent the provision of HCBS or has applied for admission to a NF and been determined via the PASRR process to be inappropriate for NF placement. TennCare may require confirmation of the NF or hospital discharge and, in the case of hospital discharge, written explanation of the applicant’s circumstances that warrant the immediate provision of NF services unless HCBS are immediately available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person who used to care for you has died. OR, they can no longer care for you because they have a physical or mental health problem or disability. • OR, you just lost the place you lived in and the supports you were getting there. You can’t go back and don’t have anywhere else to go. • OR, you are being abused, neglected or exploited where you live now. AND, you don’t have any other place to go. • OR, you’re in the hospital. AND, you’ll have to go to a nursing home if you can’t get support at home.

Turn the page over for more groups. 

<p>We may have limited space to enroll these groups NOW:</p>	<p>What our rules say:*</p>	<p>What it means:</p>
<p>More Emergent Circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment into ECF CHOICES is necessary in order to facilitate transition out of a long-term care institution, i.e., a NF or a private or public ICF/IID into a more integrated community-based setting. An adult’s transition upon aging out of state custody, discharge from an inpatient psychiatric hospital (including regional mental health institute), or release from incarceration is <i>contingent</i> on the availability of services and supports in ECF because other appropriate services/supports are not available, and the services available in ECF (including covered physical and behavioral health services) will be sufficient to safely meet the person’s needs in the community. • The health, safety or welfare of the person or others is in immediate and ongoing risk of serious harm or danger. Other interventions including Behavioral Health Crisis Prevention, Intervention and Stabilization services, where applicable, have been tried but were not successful in minimizing the risk of serious harm to the person or others without additional services available in ECF CHOICES, and the situation cannot be resolved absent the provision of such services available in ECF CHOICES. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OR, you need help to move out of a nursing home into a new home in the community. This includes nursing homes for people with intellectual disabilities (called an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities or ICF/IID).OR, you’re age 18 and leaving state custody. OR, you’re in a mental health hospital or in jail. You must have supports in order to leave AND those supports will keep you safe in the community. • OR, you or others are at risk of serious harm or danger. Other things have been tried but didn’t help. AND, you need these services to help keep you and others safe in the community. (It doesn’t matter how old you are.)
<p>Multiple Complex Health Conditions</p>	<p>The Potential Applicant has multiple complex chronic or acquired health conditions that prevent the person from being able to work, and the Potential Applicant is in urgent need of supports in order to maintain the current living arrangement and delay or prevent the need for more expensive services (applicable only to individuals of working age).</p>	<p>You’re an adult. You have complex health problems and need so much nursing care that it’s hard for you to work. You may be turning age 21 and can’t get as much nursing care because your benefits are changing. If you don’t get help right away, you’ll need care that would cost more, like care in a nursing home.</p>

Keep reading for more groups.

<p>We may have limited space to enroll 2 new groups NOW:</p>	<p>What our approved federal waiver says:**</p>	<p>What it means:</p>
<p>Intensive Behavioral Family Supports</p>	<p>Children (under age 21) who live with their family and have I/DD and severe co-occurring behavioral health and/or psychiatric conditions that place the child or others at imminent and significant risk of serious physical harm (that does not rise to the level of inpatient treatment or for which such treatment would not be appropriate), and threaten the sustainability of the family living arrangement. These children are at imminent and significant risk of placement outside the home (for example, in state custody, hospitalization, in a residential treatment facility, or incarceration). As a condition of enrollment, the child’s family must provide informed consent, including a commitment to actively participate in a family-centered therapeutic approach to treatment and support.</p>	<p>You’re a child under age 21 who lives with your family. You have I/DD and severe behavior support needs that place you or others at risk of serious harm. The behaviors are so challenging that you’re at risk of being placed outside the home. Your family is willing to be part of your treatment and wants services that will train and support them to support you can you can keep living safely together.</p>
<p>Comprehensive Behavioral Supports for Employment and Community Living</p>	<p>Adults age twenty-one (21) and older with I/DD and severe behavioral and/or psychiatric conditions, who are transitioning out of a highly structured and supervised environment, meet nursing facility level of care, and need and are receiving specialized services for I/DD. To qualify for enrollment, a person’s psychiatric symptoms or behaviors must place the person or others at imminent and significant risk of serious physical harm (that does not rise to the level of inpatient treatment or for which such treatment would not be appropriate), and necessitate continuous monitoring and supervision by 24-hour staff to ensure the person’s safety and/or the safety of others. (The intensity of supports needed is expected to lessen as the person achieves stabilization in the community and readies for transition to a different benefit group.) To enroll in this group, a person must be in one of the following target groups: 1) adults with severe psychiatric or behavioral symptoms whose family is no longer capable of supporting the individual due to the severity and frequency of behaviors; 2) emerging young adults (age 18-21) with I/DD and severe psychiatric or behavioral symptoms aging out of the foster care system; and 3) adults with I/DD and severe psychiatric or behavioral symptoms following a crisis event and/or psychiatric inpatient stay and/or transitioning out of the criminal justice system or a long-term institutional placement (including residential psychiatric treatment facility).</p>	<p>You’re an adult. You have I/DD and severe behavior support needs. You’re moving into the community from a place with lots of structure and supervision. This could be a mental health hospital, the foster care system, jail, or a nursing home. You need lots of help for a short time to help you adjust to living in the community. These include mental health services and help living in the community.</p>

Turn the page over for more about this group. 

	On a case-by-case basis, TennCare may grant an exception to permit adults ages eighteen (18) to twenty (20) with I/DD not living at home with family, including young adults with I/DD transitioning out of State custody, to enroll in Group 8, if they meet eligibility criteria.	
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*Our rules include the TennCare Rule, available at <http://publications.tnsosfiles.com/rules/1200/1200-13/1200-13-01.20171001.pdf>. They also include the terms of our approved federal waiver.

**Our approved federal waiver is available at <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tenncare/documents/tenncarewaiver.pdf>.