



Brain Injury waiver supports people with brain injuries

Children and adults who have an acquired or traumatic brain injury may be eligible for help. Instead of receiving care in a nursing facility or a neurobehavioral hospital, people can receive services in the community. It might be the person's own home, biological or adoptive parent's home, home of relatives (e.g., sibling, aunt, grandparent, etc.), family foster care home or corporate foster care home, or an assisted living facility. If married, a person may receive services while living at home with his or her spouse. The Brain Injury (BI) waiver supports these options.

In state fiscal year 2018 an average of 1,190 people were served on the BI waiver each month at an average monthly cost of \$6,879 in state and federal funds. A waiver allows states to obtain federal Medicaid matching funds to provide long-term services and supports to people in community settings instead of institutions.

Who is eligible for the BI waiver?

Eligibility for the BI waiver is determined through a screening process. To be eligible, a person must:

- Be on Medical Assistance (MA) or be eligible for MA based on the person's own income or assets.
- Be certified disabled by the Social Security Administration or the State Medical Review Team.
- Be under the age of 65 years old when the person first opens to the waiver.
- Require the level of care provided to people in a nursing facility or neurobehavioral hospital.
- Have a documented diagnosis of a traumatic, acquired or degenerative brain injury secondary to an event or disease that is not congenital.
- Have significant behavioral and cognitive impairments related to a brain injury.
- Have the potential to benefit from rehabilitation services as determined by a score of Level IV or above on the Rancho Los Amigos Level of Cognitive Functioning Scale.
- Have an assessed need for supports and services over and above those available through the MA state plan.
- Require a higher level of service than is available through other waivers due to cognitive and behavior impairments.
- Choose care and services in the community instead of a nursing facility or neurobehavioral hospital.

Once eligibility is determined for the BI waiver, certain questions must be asked about services including:

- Are the services necessary to ensure the person's health and safety?
- Is the service covered by any other funding source, such as MA state plan services, private health care coverage, Medicare, education or Vocational Rehabilitation Service funding?
- Have all options been assessed and does this option meet the desires, needs and preferences of the person?

- Is the cost of the service considered reasonable and customary?

In addition to services covered by Medical Assistance, what other services are available through the BI waiver?

- 24-hour emergency assistance
- Adult companion
- Adult day service/Adult day service bath
- Caregiver living expenses
- Case management and case management aide
- Chore
- Consumer-directed community supports, a service option giving the person flexibility and responsibility to direct his or her own services and supports
- Crisis respite
- Customized living
- Employment development
- Employment exploration
- Employment support
- Environmental accessibility adaptations
- Extended home care nursing
- Extended home health care services, including extended home health aide, nursing, and occupational, physical, speech and respiratory therapies
- Extended personal care assistance
- Family training and counseling
- Foster care
- Home-delivered meals
- Homemaker
- Housing access coordination
- Independent living skills therapies
- Independent living skills training
- Individualized home support
- In-home family support
- Night supervision
- Personal support services
- Positive support services
- Prevocational services
- Respite
- Specialist services
- Specialized equipment and supplies

- Structured day program
- Supported employment services
- Transitional services
- Transportation

How can people apply for the BI waiver?

Apply for the BI waiver at your local county public health or social service agency. The DHS Disability Services Division administers the BI waiver.



For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to dhs.info@state.mn.us, call 651-431-4300, toll-free 866-267-7655 or use your preferred relay service. ADA1 (1-18)