

## Program Eligibility

**Mental Retardation Waiver** - a Medicaid program that funds medical and disability-related services for children and adults who have a primary diagnosis of mental retardation.

***Persons with mental retardation (MR):***

Persons with MR means persons who meet the following three conditions:

1. Significantly sub-average intellectual functioning: an intelligence quotient (IQ) of approximately 70 or below on an individually administered IQ test (for infants, a clinical judgment of significantly sub-average intellectual functioning as defined by the most current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.)
2. Concurrent deficits or impairments in present adaptive functioning (e.g. the person's effectiveness in meeting the standards expected for the person's age by their cultural group) in at least two of the following areas: communication, self-care, home living, social and interpersonal skills, use of community resources, self-direction, functional academic skills, work leisure, health, and safety.
3. The onset is before the age of 18. The intelligence quotient must be determined by testing before age 18

### **Persons with a mental illness**

**1. *Persons in need of mental health services (MI):***

Mental Health Problems/Mental Illness means persons who have a current diagnosis of mental illness as defined in the most current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) and can benefit from outpatient services.

**2. *Persons with chronic mental illness (CMI):***

Chronic Mental Illness means a person 18 years and over with a persistent or emotional disorder that seriously impairs his/her functioning relative to such primary aspects of daily living as personal relations, living arrangements, or employment. Persons with chronic mental illness will typically have histories that meet at least one of the treatment history criteria and at least two of the functioning history criteria and can demonstrate that benefit can be gained through services.

**A. *Treatment History Criteria:***

1. Have undergone psychiatric treatment more intensive than outpatient care more than once in a lifetime (e.g., emergency services, alternative home care, partial hospitalization, or inpatient hospitalization): or
2. Have experienced at least one episode of continuous structured supportive residential care other than hospitalization, and

**B. Functioning History Criteria on a continuous or intermittent basis for at least two years:**

1. Are unemployed, employed in a sheltered setting, or have markedly limited skills and a poor work history.
2. Require financial assistance or out of hospital maintenance and may be unable to procure such assistance without help.
3. Show severe inability to establish or maintain a personal support system.
4. Require help in basic living skills.
5. Exhibit inappropriate social behavior with results in demand for intervention by the mental health and/or judicial system.
6. In atypical instances, a person who varies from the above criteria could still be considered a person with a chronic mental illness.

Persons with mental disorders resulting from Dementia including Alzheimer's disease or substance abuse shall not be considered chronically mentally ill.

***Persons with Developmental Disabilities (DD):***

DD means persons with a severe, chronic disability which:

1. is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. is manifested before the person attains age 22;
3. is likely to continue indefinitely
4. result in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activities: Self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency and
5. reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of services which are of lifelong or extended duration.
6. A person from birth to age nine, inclusive, who has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition may be considered to have a developmental disability without meeting three or more of the criteria described above if the person, without services and supports, has a high probability of meeting those criteria later in life.

**5. *Persons with a Brain Injury (BI):***

Persons with a Brain Injury means persons with clinically evident brain damage or spinal cord injury resulting from trauma or anoxia which temporarily or permanently impairs the individual's physical or cognitive functions. Persons with a Brain Injury are not covered by this plan.

To take advantage of most of the above mentioned programs an individual must be Medicaid eligible and have Medicaid before services can start. For clarification and further information please contact our office at 712-542-3584.