



Department  
of Health

Medicaid

**Announcement**  
**Children's Waiver Home and Community-Based Services  
(HCBS) Service Definition and Necessity Criteria Policy**

Date: May 19, 2025

To: Children's Waiver Providers of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MMCPs) including HIV Special Needs Plans (HIV SNPs), Health Homes Serving Children, Children's Care Management Agencies, and Children and Youth Evaluation Service (C-YES)

The New York State (NYS) Department of Health is pleased to announce the release of the Children's Waiver Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) Service Definition and Necessity Criteria Policy. This policy consolidates and clarifies existing requirements and supersedes other guidance and webinar presentations issued prior to this policy. Adherence to the standards outlined in the policy is the responsibility of the HCBS provider, Health Home, C-YES, and MMCP. All HCBS must be authorized and delivered in alignment with the service definitions and requirements outlined in the [Children's Waiver HCBS Service Definition and Necessity Criteria Policy](#).

The clarified service definitions, service requirements, service limits, and related information contained within this policy are **effective June 1, 2025** for new referrals and new service authorizations made on or after June 1, 2025. Updates to existing HCBS Service Plans and Plans of Care should be updated at the next Service Plan/Plan of Care review meeting with the participant and family. Updates to existing HCBS Authorizations are not required; however, future HCBS authorization requests and approvals must conform to this updated policy.

Questions on the *Children's Waiver Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Service Definition and Necessity Criteria Policy* can be sent to [BH.Transition@health.ny.gov](mailto:BH.Transition@health.ny.gov).