What is ECF CHOICES?

ECF CHOICES is a waiver program established in 2016 to provide home and community-based services (HCBS) for individuals of all ages with intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) who do not want to live in an institution or who choose to live independently of their families. The purpose of the program is to promote and support integrated, competitive employment and independent community living as the first and preferred option for individuals with I/DD.

Who Is Eligible?

- The applicant must have an intellectual disability that began before the age of 18 and/or a developmental disability that began before the age of 22.

- Meet one of the following group requirements:
  - Enrolled in TennCare Medicaid as an SSI recipient (includes those enrolled in Disabled Adult Child (DAC), Disable Adult Widow (DAW), and Pickle Passalong Categories)
  - ECF CHOICES 217-Like Groups: Meets Nursing Facility Level of Care criteria and who would be eligible in the same manner as specified under the Social Security Act and federal regulations if HCBS were provided under a Section 1915(c) waiver.
  - Interim ECF At-Risk Group: Meets Nursing Facility Level of Care criteria on June 30th, 2012, but not the criteria in place on July 1st, 2012, and in the absence of ECF CHOICES are "at risk" of institutionalization

- For ECF CHOICES 217-Like Group and Interim ECF At-Risk Group, the income limit is 300% of SSI Federal Benefit Rate. The Resource limit is $2,000. Parental income and resources may be deemed to children under 21 with at-risk Level of Care.
## Benefit Groups

- There are five benefit groups in ECF CHOICES which have slightly different eligibility requirements and provide some unique services. Individuals in all five groups receive Medicaid and Dental Benefits, employment supports, and can receive minor home modifications.

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<th>Groups</th>
<th>Who Qualifies</th>
<th>Other Notable Benefits</th>
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| **Group 4:** Essential Family Supports | • Children under the age of 21 who live at home with their family (not a foster family)  
  • Adults (21 and older) who live at home with their family can also choose to enroll in this group  
  • Can meet nursing facility level of care OR at-risk level of care. | • Respite  
  • Family caregiver stipend (or supportive home care/personal assistance)  
  • Family care giver education and training  
  • Health insurance counseling/forms assistance |
| **Group 5:** Essential Supports for Employment and Community Living | • Adults (21 and older OR 18-21 year old who can not live with family) who meet nursing facility level of care but are at-risk  
  • If group 6 is full, those with nursing facility of care can enroll in this group. | • Personal assistance  
  • Respite |
| **Group 6:** Comprehensive Supports for Employment and Community Living | • Adults (21 and older OR 18-21 year old who can not live with family) who meet nursing facility level of care (some exceptions) | • Personal assistance  
  • Respite |
| **Group 7:** Intensive Behavioral Family Supports | • Children under age 21 who meet nursing facility level of care, live with family, and have severe behavioral health and/or psychiatric conditions that place child or others in home at risk for serious physical harm | • Combines mental health treatment and other home-based supports in a family-centered way  
  • Family caregiver education and training  
  • Health insurance/counseling forms assistance |
| **Group 8:** Comprehensive Behavioral Supports for Employment and Community Living | • Adults (21 and older OR sometimes a person age 18-20) with severe behavior support needs who are moving into the community from a setting such as a mental health hospital, foster care system, jail or nursing home  
  • Short-term enrollment until condition is stabilized | • Combines short-term 24/7 residential services with mental health treatments |

## Priority and Reserve Groups

There are a limited number of slots available for the ECF CHOICES program, and there is a waiting list. There are eight priority categories. Individuals in these groups get priority when slots become available. Additionally, there are six reserve capacity categories. Individuals in these groups may be eligible to enroll and get services right away.
How to Apply for ECF CHOICES

If you want help completing this form and you already have TennCare:

You can call your Managed Care Organization (MCO) if you already have TennCare. You can find the MCO's number on your TennCare card. Here are the MCO's toll free numbers:

- Amerigroup: (866) 840-4991
- BlueCare: (888) 747-8955
- United Health Care Community Plan: (888) 690-1606

If you want help completing this form and you don't have TennCare:

You can call your region's Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) office. Tell them you need help with a self-referral for ECF CHOICES. Here are the numbers for each regional office.

- West Tennessee DIDD Regional Office: (866) 372-5709
- Middle Tennessee DIDD Regional Office: (800) 654-4839
- East Tennessee DIDD Regional Office: (888) 531-9876

If you are enrolled in ECF CHOICES and having difficulty:

You can contact the Tennessee Justice Center and we will see if we can help.

Fill out an intake form here or call us toll-free at 1-877-608-1009