



# Home and Community Based Services Update

July 22, 2025

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## Overview



What is Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)?



HCBS in Dakota County



2025 Legislative Impact

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# What is HCBS?



**Medicaid Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) Waivers** were developed to provide alternatives to placing Medicaid-eligible people in

- Hospitals
- Nursing facilities
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICFs/DD)

- **Alternative Care (AC)**
- **Elderly Waiver (EW)**



- **Community Alternative Care Waiver (CADI)**
- **Community Access for Disability Inclusion Waiver (CAC)**
- **Brain Injury Waiver (BI)**



- **Developmental Disability Waiver (DD)**

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# How do they get implemented?



- **Access**
  - MnCHOICES assessments
  - Medical Assistance
  - Disability Determination
- **Service Coordination**
  - Waiver Case Management
    - Lead Agency Staff and Contracted Agencies
- **Waiver Service Providers**
  - State enrolled

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# State of HCBS



## System Backlogs and Complexities

**HEALTH CARE**

**The pandemic's long shadow over the mental health of Minnesotans – especially youth**

Increased demand for treatment adds to questions about whether the state's supply of caregivers can meet the need – particularly for children and teens.

By Christopher Snowbeck  
The Minnesota Star Tribune

**McKights Home Care**

**NEWS**

Nine in 10 direct care HCBS providers grappling with staffing shortages: report

By ADAM HEALT  
DECEMBER 16, 2024

**Plymouth woman's fight to get her 92-year-old mother Medicaid highlights the growing problem of short-staffed counties**

Staffing in Hennepin County to help residents navigate Medical Assistance hasn't kept pace with the increasing number of people seeking long-term care.

By James Walsh  
The Minnesota Star Tribune  
MAY 4, 2025 AT 10:15AM

## Increasing Levels of Need

**Minnesota hospitals say 65,000 days of care were avoidable if patients had somewhere to go**


Chronically ill woman said she waited for hours at Minneapolis ER for an inpatient bed that never opened up.

By Jeremy Olson  
The Minnesota Star Tribune  
JANUARY 31, 2024 AT 7:50PM

## Provider Shortage

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# HCBS in Dakota County



## Community Living Services (CLS)

- Intake
- Initial Eligibility
- Reassessment
- Case Management – Internal and Contracted

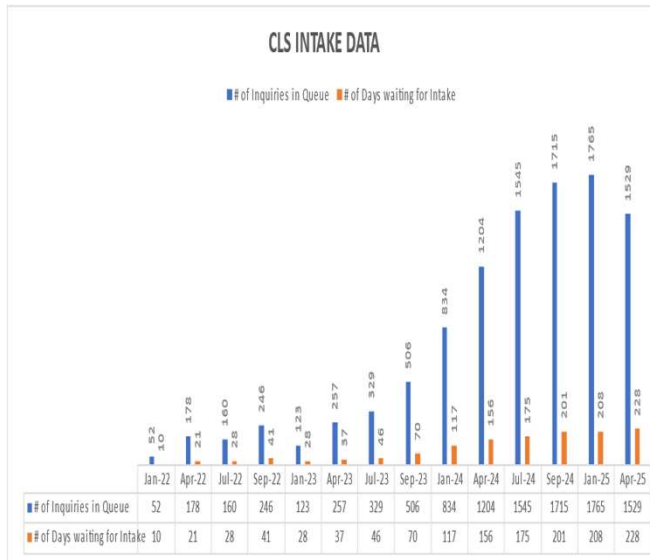
## CLS Beyond HCBS

- Developmental Disability (DD) Case Management-Non-Waiver
- Communities First Services and Supports (CFSS)

## Social Services Administrative Teams

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## Intake



Individuals in queue waiting 7 months for intake to be finalized and assessment to be scheduled.

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## Metro Intake Comparison



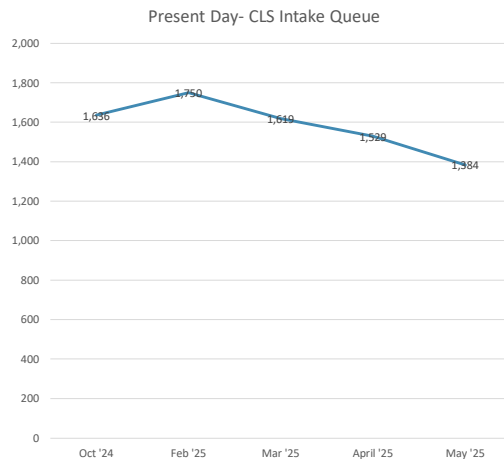
### Metro Comparison

May/June 2025

| County                    | Anoka | Dakota | Hennepin | Ramsey |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| # Waiting for Intake      | 880   | 1284   | 2693     | 2300   |
| # of Months for Wait Time | 7.5   | 7      | 6        | 9      |

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## Intake



### What's working...

- Additional staff
  - 2 FTE added in February
- External referral
  - Access
  - Process Improvements
  - Data collection improvements

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## Initial Assessment



### MnCHOICES Tool

#### **Determines program and service eligibility:** (all programs enveloped within one tool)

- HCBS waivers: Brain Injury (BI) Waiver, Community Alternative Care (CAC) Waiver, Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) Waiver, Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver and Elderly Waiver (EW)
- Alternative Care (AC) and temporary AC
- Community First Services and Supports (CFSS) – formerly PCA

#### **Provides information to access other programs and services:**

- DD case management (Rule 185)
- Housing Stabilization Services (HSS)
- Moving Home Minnesota (MHM)
- Relocation Service Coordination Targeted Case Management (RSC-TCM)
- Essential Community Supports (ECS)

#### **Provides consistent assessment practices:** (overall goal for assessment process)

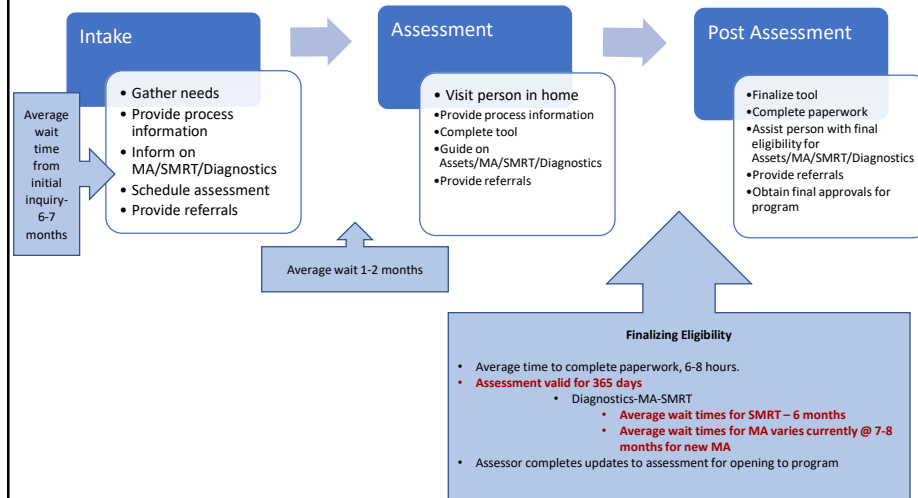
- Planning and referrals driven by the person's support needs and preferences
- Informed decision-making

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*Dakota*  
COUNTY

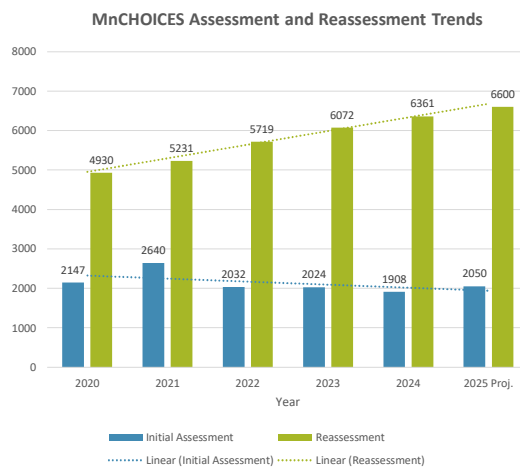
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## Person's Journey for HCBS Access



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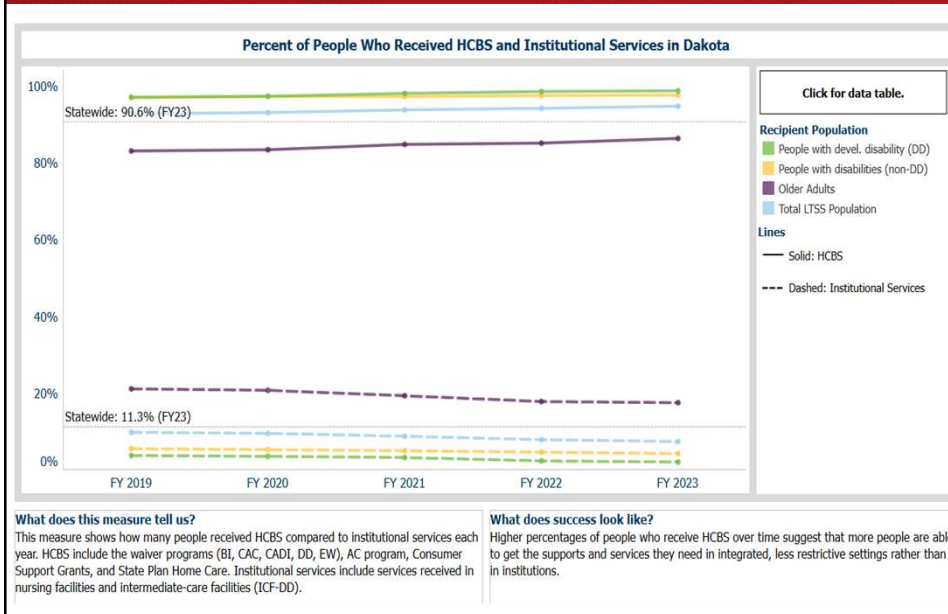
## Reassessment



**100%** of individuals on a waiver receive annual eligibility determination to continue services

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## HCBS vs Institutional Services



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## CLS Case Management



7,300 open cases  
\$560 million in approved services for 2025

### Internal Teams

- Serving a continuum of needs
  - higher acuity
  - kids in placements
  - intersections with other county programs

### 11 Contracted Case Management Agencies

- Contracted partners serving 85%

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## Case Management Pressures



Case Management turnover



Complexity of needs



Provider scarcity



Crisis



Complex policies around service planning

Rates  
Residential placements  
Changes to programs

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## 2025 Legislative Impact



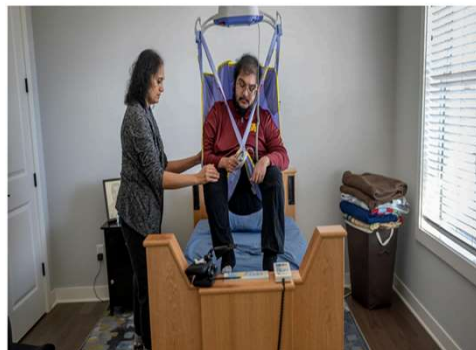
- **MnCHOICES**
  - Reassessment efficiencies
  - Payment reform for savings
- **Legislative-directed workgroups**
  - Determine future savings for waivers
- **Federal Unknowns**

### Minnesotans with disabilities say proposed budget cuts would 'bring us backward'

Advocates and providers are pushing back against Gov. Tim Walz's proposed disability service changes and remain wary of potential federal changes to Medicaid.

By Jessie Van Berkel and James Walsh  
The Minnesota Star Tribune

FEBRUARY 5, 2025 AT 2:15PM



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**THANK YOU!**

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