

# What Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) are Offered in Tennessee?

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## BACKGROUND:

- Tennessee's older population is expected to increase by more than 300,000 in the next 10 years.\*
- 38% of the state's older adults currently live with a disability.\*
- The growing older adult population in Tennessee creates an increased demand for LTSS.

\* Source: TDAC 2022 Aging Report

## METHODS:

- The Sycamore Institute had their summer intern assess available government programs for LTSS in Tennessee.
- The summer intern created a policy brief analyzing the Department of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (DIDD), the Commission of Aging and Disability, and TennCare's available LTSS programs.

## RESULTS:

- Tennessee's use of optional LTSS eligibility criteria also makes many individuals with disabilities eligible for TennCare's coverage of medical services.
- There are 7 different LTSS programs in Tennessee and one new program that launched fall 2022.
- TennCare provides home-and community-based services, as well as Medicaid diversion programs, to reduce spending on LTSS.

## CONCLUSION:

- Tennessee's government has found ways to expand access to LTSS while promoting alternatives to institutionalized care.
- As the population grows, policymakers need to look at how they can best adjust the current programs to assist older adults in need.

# Tennessee offers long-term services and supports that go beyond the federal minimum requirements

WHAT'S REQUIRED UNDER FEDERAL LAW?	WHAT'S OPTIONAL UNDER FEDERAL LAW?	WHAT'S COVERED BY TENNCARE?
Medical services must be provided to applicants 65 or older, who have a permanent disability as defined by the Social Security Administration or are blind.	If states use federal flexibilities to extend LTSS to other populations, those populations must also be granted access to medical services.	TennCare covers medical services for seniors and individuals with disabilities receiving SSI and individuals who are eligible for LTSS.
LTSS must be provided to seniors and individuals with disabilities receiving Supplemental Security Income who need the level of care traditionally provided in a nursing home.	States have the flexibility to expand LTSS services to other individuals not otherwise eligible using a state-defined "level of care" criteria to determine eligibility (e.g., to identify individuals "at risk" for needing nursing home level of care).	TennCare covers LTSS for seniors and individuals with disabilities – including physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities – with incomes of up to 224% of the FPL per year, \$2,000 in assets, and who need or are at risk for needing nursing home level of care.
LTSS services must include nursing home care and/or home health care <sup>1</sup> only for eligible individuals who need nursing home level of care.	All other LTSS benefits – including home and community-based services and care in an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF/IID) – are optional under federal law.	TennCare covers both nursing home care and HCBS for eligible individuals needing or at-risk for needing nursing home level of care. TennCare also covers ICF/IID.

<sup>1</sup> "Home health care" is a specific type of service in the category of home and community-based services.

Tennessee's LTSS Programs and Their Differences							
	CHOICES	1915(c) waivers <sup>2</sup>	The Katie Beckett Program	PACE	ECF CHOICES	OPTIONS	Title III-B
<b>Eligibility</b>							
Children	X <sup>3</sup>	X	X		X		
Adults	X	X			X	X	
Older Adults	X	X		X	X	X	X
Intellectual or Developmental Disability		X	X	X	X	X <sup>4</sup>	X
Physical Disability	X		X	X		X	X
<b>Funding</b>							
State	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Federal	X	X	X	X	X		X
<b>Services Offered</b>							
Nursing Facility and/or Intermediate Care Facility Services	X				X		
HCBS Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other LTSS Services	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

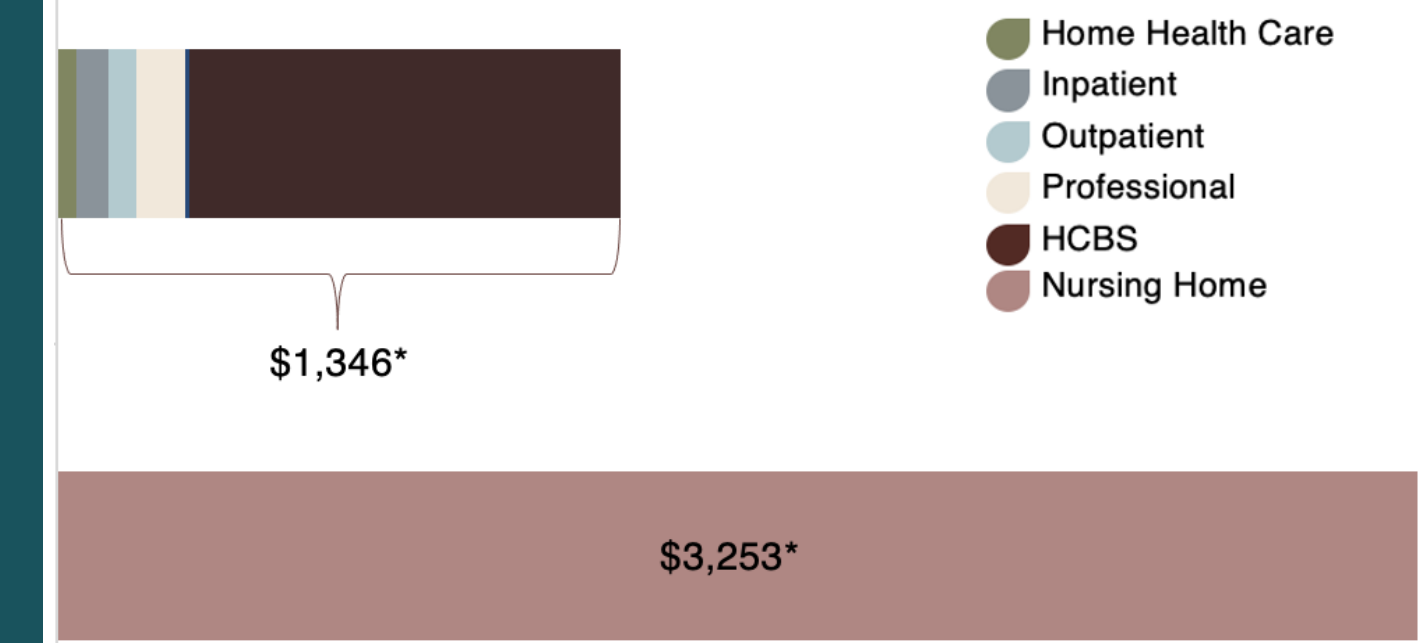
<sup>2</sup> Enrollment closed July 2016 but existing recipients who meet eligibility criteria may continue to receive services.

<sup>3</sup> While CHOICES primarily enrolls adults over 21 with a disability and older adults, enrollees of any aging needing nursing home services may qualify for CHOICES Group 1.

<sup>4</sup> OPTIONS excludes those with intellectual disabilities but includes those with cognitive disabilities, which can be categorized under developmental disabilities.

Nursing home care is more expensive than all other LTSS care combined in TennCare's CHOICES program

**CHOICES Program Services Costs Per Member**  
 Nursing Home Care Costs Are More Than Double The Total Cost of All Other Services Covered

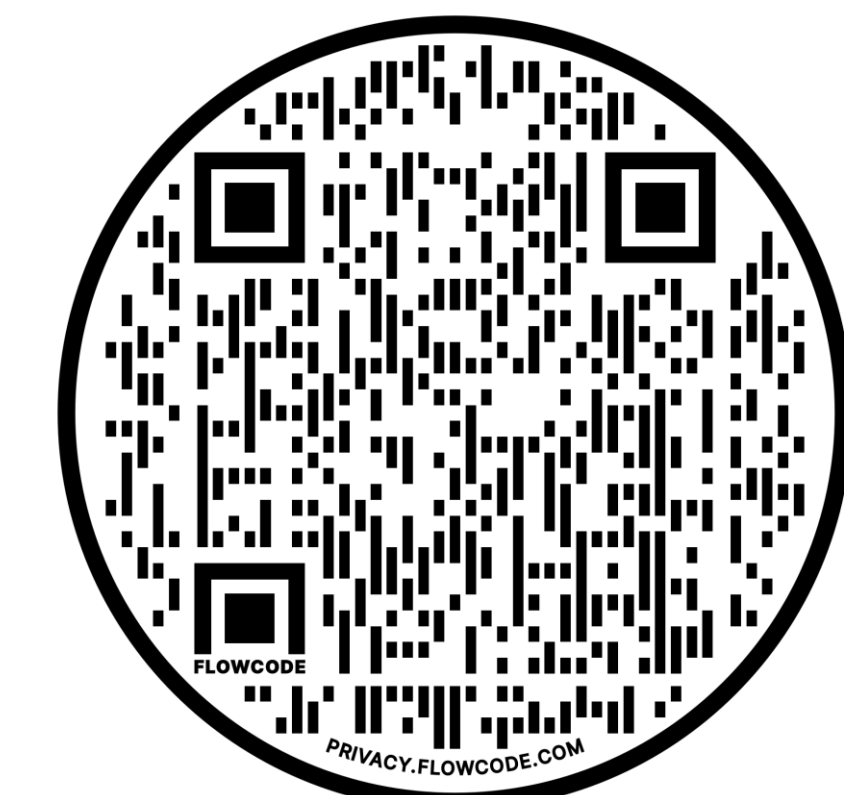


\*Dollar amounts are total monthly per capita costs of each service across all 3 CHOICES groups  
 Source: 2022 Actuarial Review of the TennCare Program

## DIDD's New LTSS Program Medicaid Alternative Pathways to Independence (MAPS)

Eligibility Criteria	Those with intellectual and developmental disabilities either (1) exiting the school system or (2) who recently left the school system and are waiting for other waivers. Enrollees may not also receive long-term services & supports or home and community-based services.
Number of Enrollees	Up to 1,250
Funding Sources	Tennessee's American Rescue Plan Act federal funding for DIDD
Services Offered	20,000 cap each year for up to three years to be used for services that promote independence and teach recipients how to use community resources.
Enrollment Dates	Enrollment opened in November 2022 for middle Tennessee. West and east Tennessee opens for enrollment in 2023.

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