

A PEATC

Do You Know....



Fact Sheet for Virginia's Parents Earned Priority: Medicaid Waivers for Military Families

Challenges for Military Family Members

One of the unique challenges that military families experience are frequent moves. Those **relocations** make obtaining supplemental financial support for family members with special needs very difficult. When military families relocate to a new state, they are required to start over and re-establish relationships with schools, doctors and support networks for their family. **When a member has a dependent with an intellectual or developmental disability**, this can be even more challenging especially when considering individual states' Medicaid eligibility requirements.

The **TRICARE ECHO** program provides supplemental care services for military family members with special needs, but these benefits are lost when families leave service. At that point, they generally have to start the entire Medicaid application process again in the state in which they settle. This results in long waiting periods without services, and families incur significant debt while paying for a family member's care.

The Department of Defense initiative **USA4Military families** has worked to engage policymakers to address these challenges. It encourages states to support transitioning families by allowing them to register in advance for state Medicaid waivers - instead of waiting until they have left the service – thereby reducing waiting times for needed community-based services.

Retaining Earned Priority for Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Waivers

To better serve military families, legislation has been introduced or passed in some states, to **allow the dependent of an active duty military member to maintain his or her position on the waiting list (earned priority)** following a transfer of the active duty military member to an assignment outside a state, as long as the active duty military member **maintains that state as his or her legal residence** to which he or she intends to return following completion of military service.

Some states have **modified an existing Medicaid waiver category to include military families** transitioning out of the military. This can also expedite services during or after an assignment.

Resources on Medicaid Waivers for Military Families

U.S. Department of Defense
Military State Policy Source
<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/>

Virginia Legislative Information System
<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendment/2017/1/SB900/Introduced/MR/306/18s/>

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services
Medicaid Waivers
<http://dmas.virginia.gov/#/longtermwaivers>



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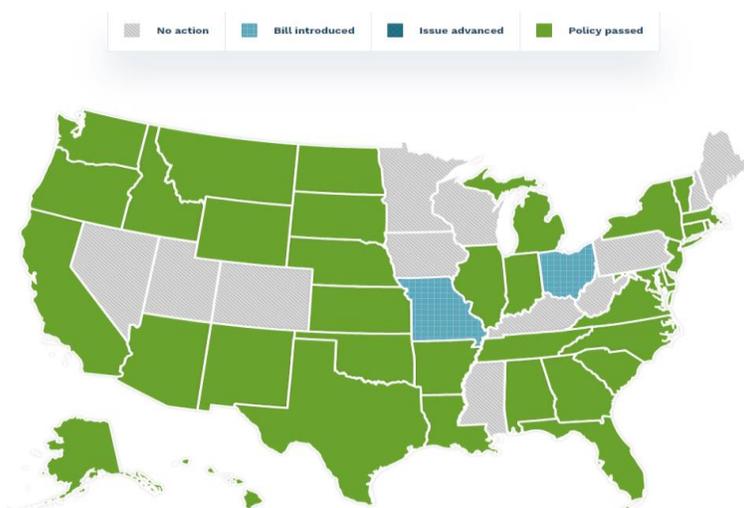
Fact Sheet for Virginia's Parents

Virginia is one of those states. In 2017, the Virginia General Assembly passed budget language (which has the force of law) that requires the state's Medicaid Agency to **reserve 5 or more Developmental Disability waiver slots** (depending on appropriated funding) for individuals who are receiving institutional level of care HCBS waiver services in another state and are **either the children of active duty military transferred to Virginia or the children of civilian DOD employees whose employment necessitates their transfer to Virginia.** Qualifying individuals are not subject to the waiver waiting list.

What Have Other States Done About this Issue?

The map below shows the 2020 status of states that are addressing this issue: You can access the interactive map here to find information on a specific state's actions. Green states have passed a policy; Blue have introduced one; Grey have taken no action.

<https://statepolicy.militaryonesource.mil/status-tracker/allow-service-members-to-retain-their-earned-priority-for-receiving-medicaid-home-and-community-based-services-waivers>



Medicaid Home- and Community-Based (HCBS) waivers provide long-term services and supports to persons who meet eligibility criteria. **The waivers allow children and adults to receive services in their own home/community versus in an institution.**

The HCBS program is a joint federal/state program and rules vary by state. **Some states, like Virginia, have a Developmental Disabilities Waiver program** which includes three different waivers within it, based on level of need. **Other states may have disability specific waivers,** like an intellectual disabilities waiver or an autism waiver.

Understanding each state's rules, including financial requirements, can be very challenging. **Nearly every state has wait lists to access HCBS waiver supports.** Virginia's 2020 wait list is more than 13,000.

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

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