Building Independence (BI) Waiver Fact Sheet-2026

What is the BI Waiver?

Building Independence (BI) Waiver [1915 (c)] provides care in the home and community rather than in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disability (ICF/IID) or other specialized care medical facility. BI waiver is managed jointly between DMAS and DBHDS. DMAS is the state Medicaid Authority and DBHDS maintains day-to-day operations for the DD Waivers. The BI waiver is for adults 18 years and older who can live mostly independently. Individuals with this waiver usually own, lease, or control their own living arrangements and supports are complemented by non-waiver-funded rent subsidies.

Eligible Population

Individuals 18 and older who:

- Meet the ICF/IID level of care criteria;
- Require waiver services within 30 days;
- Have a diagnosis of a developmental disability;
- Meet all Medicaid eligibility rules; **and**
- Be determined that community-based services under the waiver are the critical services that enable the individual to delay or avoid placement in an ICF or promote exiting from either an ICF or other institutional placement.

Covered Services

- Assistive Technology
- Benefits Planning
- Community Coaching
- Community Engagement
- Community Guide
- Crisis Services: Community Based, Center Based, Crisis Support Services
- Electronic Home-Based Supports
- Employment & Community Transportation
- Group Day Support Services
- Environmental Modifications
- Peer Mentor Supports
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Individual Supported employment
- Residential Services: Shared Living, Independent Living
- Transition Services

Waiver Enrollment

Community Services Boards conduct screenings and assess the individual prior going on the developmental disabilities waitlist. Individuals must also be enrolled in Medicaid prior to receiving a (BI/FIS/CL) waiver. Medicaid enrollment is not required to be placed on the waitlist. Visit **dmas.virginia.gov/for-applicants/** to learn more about applying for Medicaid.

Additional Information & Resources

Expenditures: https://dmas.virginia.gov/data-reporting/programs-services/waiver-services/

Reimbursement rates: https://dmas.virginia.gov/for-members/benefits-and-services/waivers/developmental-disability-dd-waivers/

Regulatory Basis: 12VAC30-122. Community Waiver Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

Provider Manual: Developmental Disabilities Waivers (BI, FIS, CL) Services | MES (virginia.gov)

Waiver Application: www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/demonstration-and-waiver-list/83406