



Bob Casey, Jr.

# Disability Digest



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## AT A GLANCE

### Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

- Home and community-based services help seniors and people with disabilities live independently.
- Service providers visit individuals who require assistance with activities of daily living.
- Medicaid funds HCBS for over 2.5 million Americans, which is less expensive than institutional care.
- There is a wait list for HCBS, which tops 800,000 and has an average 39 month wait time, due to insufficient Medicaid funds.



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## Typical HCBS Services

- **Home health care**, such as skilled nursing care, occupational, speech and physical therapy, and dietary management
- **Personal care** such as dressing, bathing, eating, and transferring to or from a bed or chair
- **Transportation services**
- **Participating in community activities**
- **Employment supports**, such as job coaches, assistance with daily activities on the job, and help obtaining and keeping competitive employment in an integrated setting
- **Hospice care**

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## HCBS is Vital During the COVID-19 Crisis

- Older adults and people with chronic health conditions and disabilities are at greater risk from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
- HCBS makes it possible for individuals to access the health care and support services they need from the safety of their own homes.
- Many people on HCBS waiting lists are living with elderly family members. When HCBS services are cut or reduced, it falls on these family member to fill in the gap.
- Those who live in congregate care settings, such as nursing homes and developmental disability institutions, face higher fatality rates than those who have been able to self-isolate.
- For seniors and people with disabilities, home and community-based services are critical to being able to continue to live at home and safely self-isolate.



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## Medicaid HCBS waiver waiting list enrollment, FY 2002-2018

Total waiting list enrollment by year:\*



NOTES: Percent change is calculated using unrounded totals. \*Beginning in 2016, totals include Section 1916 (c) and Section 1115 HCBS waiver waiting lists except that CA and NY did not report enrollment for Section 1115 waiting lists; prior years include only Section 1915 (c) waiver waiting lists.

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation Medicaid FY 2002-2018 HCBS program surveys.



# Waitlist Enrollment for Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services

*The waitlist for HCBS tops 800,000  
and has an average 39 month wait time.*

Location	Aged/ Disabled	Other	Total
Alabama	7,793	0	7,793
Alaska	906	N/A	906
Arizona	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arkansas	3,103	N/A	3,103
California	8,434	76	8,510
Colorado	2,800	N/A	2,800
Connecticut	3,465	419	3,884
Delaware	0	N/A	0
District of Columbia	0	N/A	0
Florida	71,662	N/A	71,662
Georgia	6,759	N/A	6,759
Hawaii	0	N/A	0
Idaho	0	N/A	0
Illinois	19,354	N/A	19,354
Indiana	1,495	19	1,514
Iowa	4,662	1,912	6,574
Kansas	5,230	0	5,230
Kentucky	9,055	139	9,194
Louisiana	64,252	666	64,918
Maine	1,515	N/A	1,515
Maryland	31,209	158	31,367
Massachusetts	0	N/A	0
Michigan	3,021	N/A	3,021
Minnesota	31	N/A	31
Mississippi	13,429	81	13,510
Missouri	100	0	100
Montana	2,043	79	2,122
Nebraska	1,627	N/A	1,627

Location	Aged/ Disabled	Other	Total
Nevada	1,159	0	1,159
New Hampshire	105	N/A	105
New Jersey	0	N/A	0
New Mexico	20,355	N/A	20,355
New York	Unknown	N/A	Unknown
North Carolina	14,397	N/A	14,397
North Dakota	17	N/A	17
Ohio	68,644	N/A	68,644
Oklahoma	7,672	N/A	7,672
Oregon	39	143	182
Pennsylvania	16,532	N/A	16,532
Rhode Island	0	N/A	0
South Carolina	11,292	N/A	11,292
South Dakota	350	N/A	350
Tennessee	7,263	N/A	7,263
Texas	358,658	26,550	385,208
Utah	3,145	190	3,335
Vermont	N/A	N/A	N/A
Virginia	13,215	N/A	13,215
Washington	0	N/A	0
West Virginia	1,230	6	1,236
Wisconsin	3,151	N/A	3,151
Wyoming	279	N/A	279
<b>United States</b>	<b>789,448</b>	<b>30,438</b>	<b>819,886</b>

# HCBS SPOTLIGHT

## **Nancy Murray** - *Pennsylvania*

- Nancy has two adult children with Down syndrome who both receive community residential supports through Pennsylvania's HCBS Consolidated Living Waiver.
- This makes it possible to live as independently as possible, including receiving support to work in a competitive job.
- During the COVID-19 public health emergency, Nancy's children are able to remain in their homes and socially distance with the help of direct support professionals paid for and provided with personal protective equipment by HCBS funds.



## **Danielle Lanzetta** - *New York*

- Danielle is 39 years old and uses the New York HCBS Partnership Plan Waiver for support services.
- Prior to COVID-19, she received support from a home health aide, seven days a week for 10 hours a day, and received weekly sessions of occupational and physical therapy.
- Since the start of COVID-19, her home health aides have stopped coming to work for fear of contracting the virus.
- Danielle's 71 year old mother has had to apply for paid family leave from her job to support Danielle while the agency that provides home care support looks to hire new HCBS workers.



## **Christine Brown** - *Ohio*

- Christine uses Ohio's Self Empowered Life Funding Waiver to assist her with daily living activities.
- The waiver has allowed her to be an active member of her community, participating in classes at Ohio State University and being a part-time instructor for a course on disability studies.
- Since the start of COVID-19, she has had to stop her community activities and her HCBS services have been reduced from an average of 16 hours a week to only eight hours a week.

