

## Applying for the Home Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver (Pottawatomie County residents)

The Home Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver funds a disabled individual on a monthly basis in order to remaining living integrated in their community, living their preferred life style. The waiver provides the supports that meet the needs of individuals, reducing institutionalization, and drastically relieving caregivers.

Families **can apply for these services when your child turns 5**, through their local Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO). Pottawatomie County residents will apply at Big Lakes Developmental Service, Inc. in Manhattan, accessing the Home Community Based Service Waiver for those with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Wabaunsee County residents will apply at Hetlinger Developmental Services, Inc. in Emporia. By applying, **this does NOT commit a child to receive services at the local CDDO**, but determining eligibility & access to the waiting list which is a 5-8 year out. That is why **it is critical to make an application right away**. Once eligibility is determined, you have the choice to obtain a Targeted Case Manager off a list that the CDDO will provide, at your intake. These case managers have nothing to do w/the CDDO, just by affiliation. The role of a Targeted Case Manager is to link, assist, coordinate, monitor, & follow-up on service options that your loved needs in order to remain successful. This could include SSI/Medicaid Benefits, advocating, attending IEP's, Positive Behavior Support Planning, & many other supports. A targets case manager (TCM) is paid by Medicaid, so don't let a possibility of a financial burden deny services as your TCM can assist with that as well. Additionally, by applying early, this sets up a wonderful transition into adulthood. Your loved one has a greater chance of coming off the waiting list before they exit school, obtaining services that the state pays for, greatly reducing the risk in a gap of services after they exit high school.

Once your loved one comes off the waiting list, he/she will be eligible for residential service option living, day service options, supported employment, and/or supportive home care; all funded by the state HCBS IDD Waiver. Your loved one **can choose** if they want to live alone, have roommates, get supportive home care, or stay at home. Your loved one can work in a sheltered workshop or work in the community with supports. Your loved one can remain at home with their family and hire their own staff to help with personal care services choosing their own financial management services.

To start this process, Pottawatomie County residents need to contact Russell Bowles at Big Lakes Developmental Service, Inc. in Manhattan at (785)776-2642. He can also be reached by email at [rbowles@biglakes.org](mailto:rbowles@biglakes.org). Wabaunsee County residents need to contact Sara Pearson at (620) 342-1087 who can be reached by email at [spearson@hetlinger.org](mailto:spearson@hetlinger.org).

The transition coordinator is happy to assist families with the process. If you would like her support, please contact Cristi Wiegers at (785) 456-2214 ext. 5050 or email at [wiegersc@usd320.com](mailto:wiegersc@usd320.com).