



A SNAPSHOT OF



NEW OPTIONS WAIVER PROGRAM (NOW) AND COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTS WAIVER PROGRAM (COMP)

Overview

The New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Community Habilitation and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) offer home and community-based services for people with mental retardation or developmental disabilities. A diagnosis of developmental disability includes mental retardation or other closely-related conditions such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or neurological problems that require a level of care provided in an intermediate care facility for people who have mental retardation. There are a little over 12,000 people with developmental disabilities served by the NOW/COMP programs in Georgia.

Purpose of the NOW/COMP Waiver Programs

The NOW program enables individuals with less intense and urgent needs than out-of-home residential treatment or extensive waiver services to live independently in the community. Goals for participants in the NOW program include:

- Increasing the independence and quality of life for people with mental retardation or developmental disabilities
- Increasing the flexibility of service planning and delivery to meet an individual's needs
- Avoiding the need for more intensive services

The COMP waiver program is for individuals who need comprehensive and intensive services to live in the community. Individuals eligible for the COMP waiver program need out-of-home residential support and supervision or intensive in-home services to remain in the community.

The NOW/COMP Waiver Programs offer the following services, unless otherwise indicated:

- Adult Occupational Therapy
- Adult Physical Therapy
- Adult Speech and Language Therapy
- Behavioral Supports Consultation
- Community Access
- Community Guide

ELIGIBILITY

People who are considering nursing institutional care such as Intermediate Care Facilities for people with mental retardation (ICF-MR) may be eligible for home and community based services as an alternative through Georgia's Medicaid waiver programs.

- In order to qualify for the waiver programs, the individual must first meet the criteria for Medicaid payment in an institution and certain other criteria. The person is then offered the choice between community-based services or institutional care as long as the community services do not cost more than the institutional care



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- Community Living Support
- Community Residential Alternative (COMP only)
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptation
- Financial Support Services
- Individual Directed Goods and Services (NOW only)
- Natural Support Training (NOW only)
- Pre-vocational Services
- Respite (NOW only)
- Specialized Medical Equipment
- Specialized Medical Supplies
- Support Coordination
- Supported Employment
- Transportation
- Vehicle Adaption