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BENEFICIARY REQUIREMENTS

The Community Choices Waiver (CCW) program is only available to individuals/beneficiaries who meet the following criteria:

- Medicaid financial eligibility;
- Age 65 years or older, **OR** 21 through 64 years of age with a disability that meets Medicaid standards or the Social Security Administration's disability criteria;
- Nursing facility level of care requirements;
- Name on the Request for Services Registry for CCW; and
- Plan of Care (POC) sufficient to:
 - Reasonably assure that the health and welfare of the waiver applicant can be maintained in the community with the provision of waiver services; and
 - Justify that the CCW services are appropriate, cost effective and represent the least restrictive environment for the individual.

Failure of the individual to cooperate in the eligibility determination process or to meet any of the criteria above will result in denial of admission or discharge from the CCW.

NOTE: An individual may only be certified to receive services from one home and community-based services waiver program at a time.

Request for Services Registry

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is responsible for the Request for Services Registry (RFSR), hereafter referred to as "the registry," for the CCW. An individual who wishes to have his or her name placed on the registry shall contact a toll-free telephone number, which is maintained by the Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS).

Requests for CCW services shall be accepted from the following:

- The applicant;
- An individual who is legally responsible for the applicant; or

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- A responsible representative designated by the applicant to act on his/her behalf.

Individuals will be screened and/or assessed to determine whether they meet nursing facility level of care and are members of the target population. Only individuals who meet these criteria will be added to the registry. The individual's name is placed on the registry in request date order.

NOTE: If at any time individuals do NOT meet nursing facility level of care, their names will be removed from the CCW registry.

Priority Groups for Waiver Offers

CCW offers shall be presented to individuals on the registry according to priority groups. The following groups shall have priority in the order listed:

- Individuals with substantiated cases of abuse or neglect who are referred by Adult Protective Services (APS) or Elderly Protective Services (EPS) and who, without Community Choices Waiver services, would require institutional placement to prevent further abuse and neglect as determined by OAAS review;
- Individuals diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS);
- Individuals who are residing in a state of Louisiana permanent supportive housing (PSH) unit or who are linked for the state of Louisiana PSH program;
- Individuals admitted to, or residing in, a nursing facility who have Medicaid as the sole payer source for their nursing facility stay;
- Individuals who are not presently receiving home and community-based services under another approved Medicaid program, including, but not limited to the following:
 - Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE);
 - Long Term – Personal Care Services (LT-PCS); and/or
 - Any 1915(c) Medicaid waiver programs.
- All other eligible individuals on the registry, by date of first request for services.

If an applicant is determined to be ineligible for any reason at the time an offer is made, the next

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individual on the registry, based on the above stated priority group, is notified and the process continues until an individual is determined eligible.

Seventy-five waiver opportunities are reserved for individuals diagnosed with ALS. Qualifying individuals who have been diagnosed with ALS are offered one of these Community Choices Waiver opportunities on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Expedited Waiver Opportunities

A limited number of waiver opportunities may be granted to qualified individuals who require expedited CCW services. These individuals shall be offered a CCW opportunity on a first-come, first-served basis. To be considered for an expedited CCW opportunity, the individual must, at the time of the request for the expedited opportunity, be approved for the maximum amount of services allowable under the LT-PCS Program and require institutional placement, unless offered an expedited waiver opportunity. The following criteria shall be considered in determining whether or not to grant an expedited CCW opportunity:

- Support through other programs is either unavailable or inadequate to prevent nursing facility placement;
- The death or incapacitation of an informal caregiver leaves the person without other supports;
- The support from an informal caregiver is not available due to a family crisis;
- The person lives alone and has no access to informal support; or
- For other reasons, the person lacks access to adequate informal support to prevent nursing facility placement.

Admission Denial or Discharge Criteria

Failure of the individual to cooperate in the eligibility determination process or to meet any of the following criteria will result in denial of admission to or discharge from the CCW:

- The individual does not meet the target population criteria;
- The individual does not meet the criteria for Medicaid eligibility;

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- The individual does not meet the criteria for a nursing facility level of care;
- The individual/beneficiary resides in another state or has a change of residence to another state;
- Continuity of services is interrupted as a result of the beneficiary not receiving and/or refusing CCW services (exclusive of support coordination services) for a period of 30 consecutive days;

NOTE: Continuity of services will not apply when interruptions are due to a beneficiary being admitted to an acute care hospital, rehabilitation hospital or nursing facility. This exception is granted by OAAS and will not typically exceed 90 consecutive days.

- The health and welfare of the individual cannot be reasonably assured through the provision of the CCW services;
- The individual fails to cooperate in the eligibility determination process or in the development or performance of the POC;
- The individual fails to maintain a safe and legal home environment; or
- It is not cost effective to serve the individual in the CCW.