



## New Options Waiver Program (NOW) and Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP)

The New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) offer home- and community-based services for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) or developmental disabilities (DD). The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) administers Medicaid, which delegates the day-to-day operation of the NOW/COMP Programs to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The DBHDD Central Office performs statewide waiver operational and daily administrative functions. The six DBHDD regional offices perform NOW/COMP waiver functions at the regional level, including intake and evaluation, preauthorization of NOW/COMP waiver services, utilization management, crisis resolution, quality management, and intervention in cases of service delivery problems or concerns. Individuals access the NOW/COMP Program through the DBHDD regional offices or through this link. The NOW/COMP waiver serves individuals with intellectual disabilities or other closely related conditions, such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or neurological problems. These disabilities require a level of care provided in an intermediate-care facility (ICF) for people diagnosed with I/DD. There are more than 12,000 people with developmental disabilities who are served by the NOW/COMP programs in Georgia.

### Eligibility for Both Programs

Individuals who meet the level of care that would be required in an intermediate-care facility for people with intellectual disabilities (ICF-ID) may be eligible for home- and community-based services as an alternative through Georgia's Medicaid NOW and COMP waiver programs.

To qualify for these waiver programs and be offered the choice of community-based services instead of institutional care, the individual must first meet the criteria for Medicaid payment in an institution and certain other criteria.

#### Specific qualifications:

- Categorically eligible Medicaid recipients
- Have a diagnosis of an intellectual disability and/or a closely related condition
- Currently receiving the level of care provided in an ICF-ID that is reimbursable under the State Plan, and for whom home- and community-based services are determined to be an appropriate alternative
- Likely to require the level of care provided in an ICF-ID that would be reimbursable under the State Plan in the absence of home- and community-based services that are determined to be an appropriate alternative

## Purpose of the NOW Program

The NOW waiver program offers services and supports to individuals to enable them to remain living in their own or family home and participate or live independently in the community.

Goals for participants in the NOW program, which serves individuals with less intensive needs than those in the COMP program, include:

- Avoiding the need for more intensive services. Increasing independence and quality of life of individuals with I/DD.
- Increasing the flexibility of service planning and delivery to meet exact individual needs.
- Providing the opportunity for all participants to elect to direct their services to the extent that they choose.
- Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of NOW participants.

## Purpose of the COMP Program

The COMP waiver program, which serves individuals with more intensive needs, primarily provides residential care for individuals with I/DD. These individuals require comprehensive and intensive services and need out-of-home residential support and supervision or intensive levels of in-home services to remain in the community.

The purpose of the COMP program is to offer comprehensive and extensive waiver services to enable individuals with urgent and intense needs to avoid institutional placement. The COMP program provides the level of services needed by individuals transitioning from institutions to community living.

Goals for participants in the COMP program include:

- Avoiding the need for institutional placement
- Increasing independence and quality of life of individuals with ID/DD who have intensive or comprehensive support needs
- Facilitating the transition of institutionalized individuals to community living.
- Offering opportunities statewide for participant direction by waiver participants who have intensive or comprehensive support needs
- Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of COMP program participants

## For More Information

Visit the DCH website at:  
**[www.dch.georgia.gov](http://www.dch.georgia.gov)**  
or visit the DBHDD website at:  
**[www.dbhdd.georgia.gov](http://www.dbhdd.georgia.gov)**

### NOW/COMP Waiver Program Services

Adult Dental Services  
Adult Nursing Service  
Adult Occupational Therapy Services  
Adult Physical Therapy Services  
Adult Speech and Language Therapy Services  
Additional Staffing Services  
Assistive Technology  
Behavioral Supports Services  
Community Access Services  
Community Guide Services  
Community Living Support Services  
Community Residential Alternative Services (COMP only)  
Environmental Accessibility Adaptation Services

### Financial Support Services

Individual Directed Goods and Services  
Interpreter Services  
Natural Support Training Services  
Nutrition Services  
Pre-vocational Services  
Respite Services  
Respite Out-of-Home 15-minute Services  
Specialized Medical Equipment Services  
Specialized Medical Supplies Services  
Support Coordination Services  
Intensive Support Coordination Services  
Supported Employment Services  
Transportation Services  
Vehicle Adaption Services