Brain Injury (BI) Waiver Program
Helping people with brain injuries live as independently as possible in homes or community settings, not nursing homes or neurobehavioral hospitals

What is the BI Waiver Program?
In Minnesota, children and adults with a diagnosis of brain injury who require the level of care provided in a specialized nursing home or neurobehavioral hospital may be eligible to receive services in community settings rather than in a nursing facility or a neurobehavioral hospital.

Who is eligible?
To be eligible for the BI Waiver, people must:
- Be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA)
- Be certified disabled by the Social Security Administration or State Medical Review Team (SMRT) process
- Be under the age of 65 at the time they are opening to the BI waiver for the first time
- Have a documented diagnosis of traumatic or acquired brain injury
- Experience significant or severe behavior and cognitive deficits related to the brain injury
- Be assessed through a screening process and determined to need the level of services provided in a specialized nursing facility or neurobehavioral hospital
- Have an assessed need for supports and services beyond those available through the standard Medical Assistance (MA) benefit set.

What services are offered?
In addition to the full range of services traditionally covered by Medical Assistance (medically necessary hospital care, physician care, prescription drugs, dental services, therapies, counseling, medical transportation), the BI Waiver offers a variety of services based on need such as:
- Consumer directed community supports (CDCS)
- Employment support
- Environmental accessibility adaptations
- Family training and counseling
- Individualized home supports
- Residential services
- Respite care.

People can receive a variety of services while living in their own home, the home of a relative or friend or another community setting, such as a licensed foster care home.

Will these services take the place of other funding sources?
No. BI Waiver services supplement, not replace, other funding sources such as insurance, Medical Assistance and Medicare.

What happens when a person on the BI Waiver reaches age 65?
People who receive BI Waiver services may choose to stay on the waiver when they turn 65 years old or go onto the Elderly Waiver (EW).

How do people apply?
People who are interested in receiving BI Waiver services should contact their county or tribal social services agency to ask for a screening or additional information.

Visit https://mn.gov/dhs and search for “county, tribal and regional offices” or call the Disability Hub MN at 866-333-2466 for a list of county, tribal and regional offices.
Right to fair treatment
People have the right to fair, non-discriminatory treatment. The Department of Human Services cannot discriminate against anyone because of his or her race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, creed, political beliefs or because of physical, mental or emotional disability or status with regard to public assistance. If a person feels discriminated against for any reason, a complaint may be filed with the:

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Office for Equal Opportunity
PO Box 64997
St. Paul, MN 55164-0997
651-431-3040 (voice) 651-431-3041 (TTY/TDD)
651-431-7444 (fax) 800-627-3529 (Minnesota Relay Service)

or the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office for Civil Rights, Region V
233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 240
Chicago, IL 60601
312-886-2356 (voice)
312-353-5693 (TTY/TDD)
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Disability Services Division
PO Box 64967
St. Paul, MN 55164-0967

Attention. If you need free help interpreting this document, call the above number.

Disability Hub MN 866-333-2466

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For accessible formats of this information or assistance with additional equal access to human services, write to DHSInfo@state.mn.us, call 866-333-2466, or use your preferred relay service.