

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver

WHAT IS THE YES WAIVER?

The YES (Youth Empowerment Services) Waiver is a 1915 (c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver that allows for more flexibility in the funding of intensive community-based services to assist children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbances to live in the community with their families. Waiver services are delivered through utilizing a strength based process called Wraparound.

Waiver services are provided in combination with services available through the Medicaid State Plan, other federal, state, and local programs the individual may qualify for, and the natural supports that families and communities provide.

WHAT IS THE WRAPAROUND PROCESS?

The wraparound *process* aims to achieve positive outcomes by providing a structured, creative and individualized team planning process that, compared to traditional treatment planning, results in plans that are more effective and more relevant to the child and family. Through the team-based planning and implementation process, wraparound also aims to develop the problem-solving skills, coping skills, and self-efficacy of the young people and family members. Finally, there is an emphasis on integrating the youth into the community and building the family's social support network.

Goals

1. Reducing out-of-home placements and inpatient psychiatric treatment by all child-serving agencies;
2. Providing a more complete continuum of community-based services and supports;
3. Ensuring families have access to parent partners and other flexible non-traditional support services as identified in a family-centered planning process;
4. Preventing entry into the foster care system and relinquishment of parental custody; and
5. Improving the clinical and functional outcomes of children and adolescents

Services Include

- ❖ Adaptive Aids & Supports
- ❖ Community Living Supports
- ❖ Minor Home Modifications
- ❖ Non-Medical Transportation
- ❖ Paraprofessional Services
- ❖ Professional Services
- ❖ Respite
- ❖ Supportive Family Based Alternatives
- ❖ Transitional Services
- ❖ Family Supports

All YES Waiver participants will also receive benefits to access all Medicaid State Plan Services that are medically necessary.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR YES WAIVER SERVICES?

The Local Mental Health Authority in your service area will assess you for eligibility. See “Who Do I Contact About Receiving Services?”

To participate in the YES Waiver, the child or adolescent must meet the following criteria.

Demographic Criteria

- Be between 3-18 years of age;
- Reside in Webb, Jim Hogg, Zapata and Starr counties
- Reside in a non-institutional setting with the child’s or adolescent’s Legally Authorized Representative; or in the child’s or adolescent’s own home or apartment, if legally emancipated.

Clinical Criteria

- **Have serious functional impairment or acute psychiatric symptoms as indicated by:**
 - Risk of Harm
 - Disruptive or Aggressive Behavior
 - Family Resources
 - School Behavior
 - Current Diagnosis

There is a reasonable expectation that, without YES Waiver Services, the child or adolescent would qualify for inpatient care.

Financial Criteria

A child or adolescent must be eligible for Medicaid.

- If you are a current Medicaid recipient, you may already meet financial requirements for the YES Waiver or additional information may be required.
- If you are not a current Medicaid recipient, you may qualify to receive Medicaid through the

YES Waiver (Special Waiver Income Group). Financial eligibility is based on standards to determine eligibility for Medicaid in institutions and parental income is not counted.

WHAT IS A FAIR HEARING, AND HOW DO I GET ONE?

A fair hearing is a request to change a decision to change or deny services.

Border Region Behavioral Health Center will notify the child or adolescent, and Legally Authorized Representative, of the right to a fair hearing. The conditions under which the individual or LAR may request a Fair Hearing include, but are not limited to:

1. An individual is denied participation in the YES Waiver, unless the reason for the denial is the program participation limit;
2. An individual is denied continued participation in the YES Waiver; or
3. YES Waiver services for an individual are denied, reduced, suspended, or terminated.

To request a fair hearing, please call or write to the Office of Consumer Services and Rights Protection:

**Texas Department of State Health Services
Office of Consumer Services and Rights Protection
Mail Code 2019
P.O. Box 12668
Austin, TX 78711-2668**

**Toll Free Number: 1-800-252-8154
Local Number: 512-206-5760**

Please visit our Website for the most up to date
Information on the YES Waiver

DSHS YES Waiver Website:
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhsa/yes/>

WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT RECEIVING SERVICES?

As the Local Mental Health Authority for Webb, Zapata, Jim Hogg and Starr counties, Border Region Behavioral Health Center is responsible for assessing service needs.

To obtain more information or to get registered on the Inquiry List for Border Region Behavioral Health Center, please call:

Toll Free: 1-844-503-6182

HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE IF I AM ELIGIBLE? WILL THERE BE A WAIT LIST?

The amount of time you may have to wait to see if you are eligible will depend on whether there is a YES Waiver spot currently available and the date you were registered on the Inquiry List.

When a spot is available, Border Region Behavioral Health Center will contact you by phone and in writing notifying you of an available spot and to schedule an appointment to begin the eligibility determination process.

You may continue to receive other services that you qualify for while on the YES Waiver Inquiry List.

Contact Border Region Behavioral Health for more information:

Website: <http://www.borderregion.org>

**Border Region Behavioral Health Center
YES Inquiry Line (844) 503-6182
Telephone No. (956) 794-3340**

