

The NC Division of Health Benefits (previously known as the Division of Medical Assistance) has made revisions (or changes) to the current NC Innovations Waiver in the form of a Waiver Renewal. This Waiver Renewal and resulting changes are in response to feedback from members, families, and stakeholders. In most cases, the changes were made to simplify the understanding of the services or to make the services more meaningful. In addition, two new services were added to enhance the existing Supported Living definition.

Innovation Waiver Renewal Changes Fact Sheet

- Changes to the Assistive Technology Equipment and Supplies (ATES) service definition include the following: it can now be utilized to pay for the cost of monthly monitoring or internet charges when it is required for the functioning of the item or system such as alarm systems or voice controlled devices. The purchase of **adaptive computer desks** are now covered and language has been added to clarify that **non-adaptive furniture is not covered**.
- Community Living and Support is an individualized or group service that enables the waiver member to live successfully in his/her own home, the home of his/her family or natural supports and be an active member of his/her community.
- Additional language was added to the Community Navigator service definition supporting self-direction to include assistance with writing short range goals and interventions. It also adjusts the Community Navigator's role for tenancy/housing support, such as assisting members with budgeting for housing and living expenses.
- Community Networking now provides explanation around what integrated community-based, employment-focused skill development consists of (i.e. career exploration).
- Day Supports added language to support career and employment exploration.
- The Employer Supplies service definition added language to include eligible equipment purchases (such as laptop/computer/printer) used to carry out administrative duties for the Employer of Record. Employer Supplies may be used to pay for Internet as needed to carry out duties for the EOR. Employer Supplies may also be utilized to pay for training and other work-related requirements such as Hepatitis B Vaccines for employees.
- Residential Supports levels are determined by the individual Budget Tool and other evidence of support need. The SIS Level is only one piece of evidence that may be considered. Members should continue to request services they need regardless of their individual budget.
- Respite may be utilized during school hours for sickness, injury, or when a student is suspended or expelled. Respite can also be used for members living in a Residential or Supported Living setting when the member is accessing a non-integrated summer camps or support groups.
- Supported Living may be self-directed. This service definition has added clarifying language related to Supported Living and other family members. Transportation is an inclusive component of Supported Living to achieve goals and objectives related to these activities.

New Service Definitions

- Supported Living Periodic is a new service available for individuals needing less than four hours of Supported Living a day.
- Supported Living Transition is another new service offered to support members who are moving into their own home with Supported Living to facilitate the transition. The service is only available six months prior to transition into Supported Living.