

**Important Transition  
Information Every  
Family Should Know**

**Transition Information  
Fact Sheets**

**April 2015**

# **Transition Information Fact Sheets**

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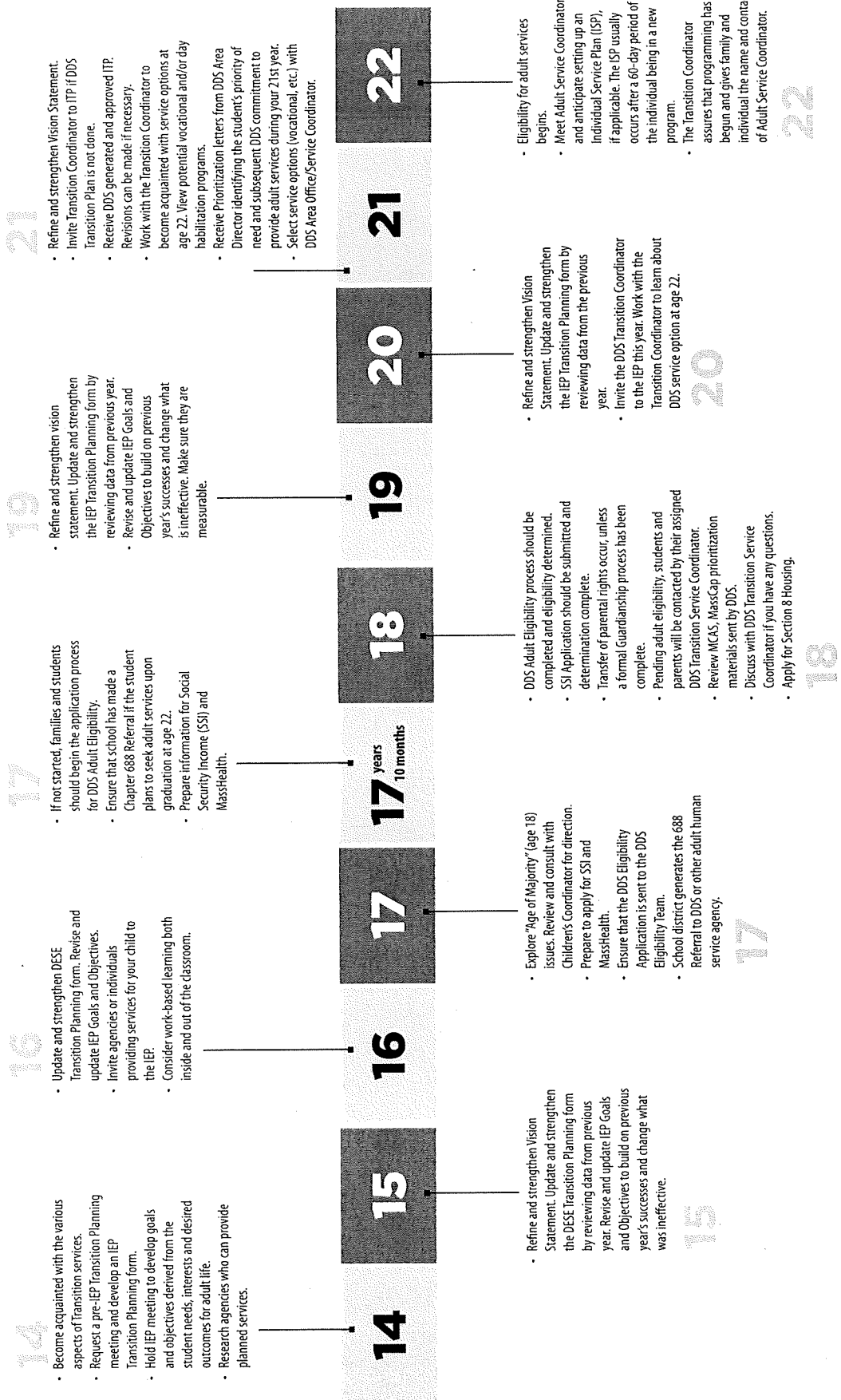
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# Transition Timeline



# MassHealth Benefits

## What is MassHealth?

MassHealth is state-administered Medicaid-funded health insurance. It provides comprehensive health insurance--or help in paying for private health insurance--to Massachusetts children, families, seniors, and people with disabilities.

To be considered "disabled" for MassHealth eligibility, you must have one of the following:

- » a certification of legal blindness from the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
- » a disability determination by the Social Security Administration
- » a disability determination by the Division of Medical Assistance Disability Determination Unit

## Types of Coverage:

**MASSHEALTH STANDARD** health insurance coverage is automatically provided to SSI recipients. This coverage type offers a full range of health care benefits. Young people who are not on SSI may apply separately for MassHealth Standard.

**MASSHEALTH COMMONHEALTH** is for adults, young adults, and children with disabilities who are not eligible for MassHealth Standard. There is no income limit for MassHealth CommonHealth. If your monthly income before taxes and deductions is above 100% of the federal poverty level, you may have to pay a premium,\* or meet a one-time-only deductible.

**MASSHEALTH COMMONHEALTH FOR WORKING ADULTS** covers adults ages 18 through 64 who are over the income limit for MassHealth Standard but meet the same disability standards and work at least 40 hours per month. CommonHealth covers most of the same benefits as the MassHealth Standard program. CommonHealth Working members pay a monthly premium\* that increases as their income goes up. There are NO income or asset limits for the CommonHealth Working program.

**MASSHEALTH/KAILEIGH MULLIGAN** allows certain children with significant disabilities under age 18 to live at home with their parents and have MassHealth eligibility determined without counting the income and assets of their parents. This program ENDS at age 18. Other MassHealth programs must be applied for at age 18 to maintain coverage as a young adult.

## How to Apply:

The application for MassHealth (formerly the Member Benefit Request or "MBR") is now called the "Application for Health Coverage and Help Paying Costs." Applications can be obtained:

- » **BY PHONE** through the MassHealth Enrollment Center at 1-888-665-9993 (TTY: 1-888-665-9997). They will send you a MassHealth information booklet, application form, and any supplements. They will also answer any questions you have about applying for MassHealth.
- » **ONLINE** at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/masshealth/membappforms/aca-2-english.pdf>.
- » **IN PERSON** at a local community health center, hospital, or other MassHealth-approved community organization. A MassHealth benefits advisor will answer your questions, fill out an online application with you, and submit your application via computer. To find a community health center near you, call the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers Patient Referral Line at 1-800-475-8455.

To apply and be considered for MassHealth due to a disability, rather than income, either a **CHILD DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT** or **ADULT DISABILITY SUPPLEMENT** form must be included with the application.

An **AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATION FORM** must be submitted to MassHealth when submitting an application or to check on eligibility, status of claims, supplies, etc. on behalf of an adult child (over 18 regardless of ability/disability). This form will allow information to be shared about the adult child. The authorization may need to be renewed periodically.

## TRANSITION INFORMATION EVERY FAMILY SHOULD KNOW

### What other benefits may be available?

In addition to a full range of health care needs, MassHealth offers services to eligible members for home health aides, personal care attendants, behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) services, incontinence supplies (diapers/pull-up briefs), transportation services to medical appointments, adult family/foster care, adult day habilitation services, and pharmacy services, including coverage for prescription and over-the-counter drugs. For more information, go to [www.mass.gov/masshealth/disability](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth/disability), or call 1-800-841-2900 or the Community Support Line at 1-800-882-1435.

### Other benefits to consider:

\*The **MASSHEALTH STANDARD/COMMONHEALTH PREMIUM ASSISTANCE (MSCPA)** program may pay some or all of you/your family's private health insurance premium or COBRA payment. The private insurance must meet the Basic Benefit Level of coverage as determined by MassHealth and MSCPA. MSCPA (premium assistance) will continue for as long as private health insurance is retained for the member with a disability, and as long as the member is eligible for MassHealth. Premium assistance is a separate application process and must be applied for by calling the MSCPA program at 1-800-862-4840.

As a young adult with private health insurance approaches the age of 26, an "Adult Dependent with a Disability" request should be considered and formally requested through the private health insurance. This request, if approved, will ensure that private insurance coverage continues past the current legally mandated age of 26.

As long as the private health insurance is maintained as primary insurance and MassHealth is secondary, eligibility for premium assistance (MSCPA) should be retained, regardless of age. Contact MSCPA to request an application at 1-800-862-4840.

For further information regarding MassHealth benefits, visit the Division of Medical Assistance website at [www.mass.gov/dma](http://www.mass.gov/dma), or call 1-800-841-2900.

## **Employment First Initiative**

Over the past several years, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has been working on an Employment First initiative. This is a plan to expand integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to phase out center-based/sheltered workshop services.

DDS is working with day and employment providers to get more full-time and part-time jobs for the people we serve. One primary reason for this is the expressed preference of many individuals and their families for competitive employment opportunities.

As of January 1, 2014, no new referrals can be made to sheltered workshop programs. DDS's goal is that the sheltered workshop model will be phased out by June 30, 2016. Individuals currently served in sheltered workshop situations will transition to individual or group supported employment, or to community-based day services. DDS is committed to supporting individuals during non-work hours in needed day services in a manner that maintains stability for families.

The DDS transition coordinator will plan with the individual and family to identify the most appropriate employment and day options available when the individual graduates. Typically, this requires a team approach, with all team members contributing toward a successful outcome.

Some individuals and families may craft a unique employment option, or may combine several models to create a meaningful experience. The option at graduation is a first step, and may evolve as the individual has different experiences and continues to develop and grow.

### **Factors to consider when planning:**

- » The student's employment experiences, skills, and training and supervision needs.
- » The student's travel and transportation skills and needs.
- » The opportunity to build upon any current employment skills or jobs.
- » The location of the employment or training situation.
- » Flexibility and creativity in hours, scheduling, and transportation options.

### **Service Definitions**

#### **INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT**

An individual receives assistance from a provider agency to obtain an integrated, paid job based on identified needs and interests. A job coach provides regular or periodic assistance, training, and support so that the individual can develop, maintain, and/or improve job skills and achieve successful job retention. Natural supports are developed by the provider to help increase the individual's inclusion and independence in the community.

#### **GROUP SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT**

A small group of individuals work at businesses in the community with the supervision of a provider agency. Individuals have contact with co-workers, customers, supervisors, and other individuals without disabilities. Individuals may work in industry/businesses, mobile work crews, and temporary services.

#### **COMMUNITY-BASED DAY SERVICES**

Individuals are supported to enrich their lives through a full range of community activities while developing and enhancing personal and social competency. Services can include career exploration, volunteer experiences, community integration activities, skill development, and training in activities of daily living, independent living, and social skills. This model may be a pathway toward employment for some individuals.

#### **DAY HABILITATION**

Day habilitation services are funded by MassHealth. Services are based on a service plan of goals and objectives and a program of integrated activities and therapies to help participants achieve optimal physical and cognitive capabilities. Employment and related activities are not included in the day habilitation model of services.

#### **PARTICIPANT-DIRECTED EMPLOYMENT AND INDIVIDUALIZED DAY SUPPORTS**

Supports provided to individuals tailored to their specific goals and outcomes. Individuals acquire, improve, and/or retain skills to prepare and support them for work and/or meaningful community participation. Individuals work closely with DDS staff on needs assessment, prioritization, planning, and budget development, and have primary responsibility for the hiring of support staff.

## Transportación

Los viajes y arreglos de transportación son un aspecto importante para una transición exitosa a la vida adulta. Los individuos que dejan la escuela usan una variedad de opciones de transportación. Muchos viajan independientemente al usar la transportación pública o una transportación pública especial (p. ej., el servicio de transportación "THE RIDE"). Otros hacen arreglos de transportación con miembros de la familia, amigos, compañeros de trabajo, voluntarios o con el personal de proveedores.

La Oficina de Servicio Humano de Transportación (HST, por sus siglas en inglés), una rama de la Oficina Ejecutiva de Salud y Servicios Humanos, supervisa la transportación a programas diurnos y de empleo, así como a programas diurnos de habilitación, para los individuos que reciben servicios del Departamento de Servicios de Desarrollo (DDS). La Oficina de HST maneja seis contratos con las Autoridades de Tránsito Regional (RTAs, por sus siglas en inglés). Por su parte, RTAs subcontrata compañías de transportación local que emplean y adiestran a los conductores de camionetas y carros que la compañía se encarga de mantener. La transportación se provee si hay rutas y asientos disponibles.

### Consejos para Organizar una Transportación Exitosa

- » De ser factible, mientras la persona todavía esté en la escuela, aproveche las actividades de viajes de entrenamiento para maximizar la independencia del usuario.
- » Considere si es una opción la transportación pública o la transportación pública especializada.
- » Cuando esté considerando un empleo o un programa diurno, tenga en cuenta la localización.

#### **MIENTRAS MÁS CERCA, MEJOR ES LA TRANSPORTACIÓN.**

- » Si la transportación de la Oficina de HST es beneficiosa, trabaje junto a su coordinador de transición 688 para solicitar transportación (TR, por sus siglas en inglés). El coordinador de servicio le entregará, de parte del individuo, un TR a la Oficina de HST.
- » Asegúrese de que el coordinador de transición 688 del DDS esté consciente de las importantes necesidades físicas, médicas o de comportamiento del individuo.
- » Trate de ser flexible y realista sobre las opciones de transportación que hay disponibles.

### Algunas Observaciones Sobre los Servicios de HST

- » La Oficina de HST provee servicio hasta la acera de la casa. El chofer puede ayudar a un individuo

- a entrar y salir del vehículo, pero no puede ayudar al individuo a entrar o salir del hogar.
- » Según sea posible, las compañías de transportación tratan de asignar a choferes permanentes para cada ruta, de modo que los individuos, las familias y el personal se conozcan entre todos.
- » Se requiere que las compañías de transportación soliciten la Información del Registro de Ofensores Criminales (CORI, por sus siglas en inglés) antes de contratar a cada chofer, y anualmente a partir de la contratación.
- » Las rutas de transportación han establecido un orden particular de horarios para buscar y dejar a las personas. Los choferes no pueden alterar este horario, a menos que la compañía les ordene hacer el cambio. Hay un período de 15 minutos antes o después de la hora designada para buscar o dejar a la persona.
- » Las rutas se designan para que los individuos no estén en ruta más de 90 minutos de ida o de vuelta.
- » Si el vehículo llega a la residencia y no hay nadie en el hogar para recibir al individuo, el chofer se comunicará con la compañía de transporte, el RTA y el DDS para resolver la situación. No se dejará al individuo sin atención, a menos que se haya llenado con anterioridad una autorización para "dejar solo al individuo" y la misma esté archivada en la Oficina de HST.
- » Hay un sistema de querellas para resolver situaciones en las cuales los individuos y las familias sientan que no se ha cumplido con las normas de transportación.
- » La Oficina de HST no les provee transportación a los individuos que trabajan independientemente.

### Transportación a Otros Lugares Que No Sean Diurnos y de Empleo

Algunos individuos que reciben servicios de salud de MA, son elegibles para recibir transportación individual a citas y actividades que hayan sido aprobadas como necesidades médicas a través de una solicitud de PT-1.

Aunque las opciones de transportación patrocinadas por el DDS para actividades sociales y recreativas sean limitadas, algunos centros de apoyo familiar y otras entidades, proveen o ayudan a organizar la transportación a algunas actividades y eventos.

La página web de la Oficina de HST ([www.mass.gov/hst](http://www.mass.gov/hst)) provee información sobre otros recursos de transportación y viajes.