

## *What You Need to Know About*

# Community Living Supports

**Community Living Supports (CLS) is a service paid for by Medicaid when medically necessary for an individual. CLS is defined as:**

“Community Living Supports are used to increase or maintain personal self-sufficiency, facilitating an individual’s achievement of his goals of community inclusion and participation, independence or productivity. The supports may be provided in the participant’s residence or in community settings (including, but not limited to, libraries, city pools, camps, etc.)”

Section 17.3.B of the Medicaid Manual (7/1/10)

### What does CLS coverage include?

<p><b>1</b> <b>Assisting, reminding, observing, guiding and/or training in the following activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meal preparation</li> <li>• laundry</li> <li>• routine, seasonal, and heavy household care and maintenance</li> <li>• activities of daily living (e.g., bathing, eating, dressing, personal hygiene)</li> <li>• shopping for food and other necessities of daily living</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Staff assistance, support and/or training with activities such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• money management (e.g., attending classes, movies, concerts and events in a park; volunteering; voting)</li> <li>• non-medical care (not requiring nurse or physician intervention)</li> <li>• socialization and relationship building</li> <li>• transportation from the beneficiary’s residence to community activities, among community activities, and from the community activities back to the beneficiary’s residence</li> <li>• participation in regular community activities and recreation opportunities</li> <li>• attendance at medical appointments</li> <li>• acquiring or procuring goods, other than those listed under shopping, and non-medical services</li> <li>• reminding, observing and/or monitoring of medication administration</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b> <b>Staff assistance with preserving the health and safety of the individual in order that he/she may reside or be supported in the most integrated, independent community setting.</b></p>	

### What types of things are not CLS?

- Transportation to and from medical appointments cannot be billed to Medicaid.
- Payment (direct or indirect) to responsible relatives (i.e., spouses, or parents of minor children), or guardian of the person receiving community living supports cannot be billed to Medicaid.
- “Babysitting” or “respite” or “chore” services are not to be considered CLS and cannot be billed to Medicaid.
- “Cleaning” cannot be billed to Medicaid unless the consumer is directly involved and it is written in his/her treatment plan as a goal.
- CLS services can not be provided when the individual is asleep (except in very rare and unusual situations) and cannot be billed to Medicaid.



## When will Medicaid pay for CLS services?

- Medicaid will pay for services when other similar services have first been requested such as the Department of Human Services (DHS) Home Help and/or Expanded Home Help programs. Another example is through Personal Care services in certified specialized residential settings. Those programs also offer assistance in the individual's own, unlicensed home with meal preparation, laundry, routine household care and maintenance, activities of daily living and shopping.
- If you are eligible, Medicaid will pay for CLS services while you're waiting for authorization for Personal Care or Home Help, or if those programs are not providing sufficient assistance.
- You can ask your case manager or supports coordinator help with requesting Home Help services from DHS. Your case manager or supports coordinator will also help with filling out and sending a request for a Fair Hearing when you believe that the DHS authorization of service amount, scope and duration for Home Help does not appear to reflect your needs.
- CLS may be provided in a licensed specialized residential setting as a complement to, and in conjunction with, state plan coverage Personal Care in Specialized Residential Settings.
- Transportation to medical appointments is covered by Medicaid through DHS or the Medicaid Health Plan.
- CLS assistance with meal preparation, laundry, routine household care and maintenance, activities of daily living and/or shopping may be used to complement Home Help or Expanded Home Help services when the individual's needs for this assistance have been officially determined to exceed what DHS allows.

## Have providers ever NOT been reimbursed for CLS services?

Yes, in situations such as:

- Billing for services to one individual that were authorized for another
- Billing for services when the individual was asleep or not at home
- Using CLS staff to provide household chores such as cleaning, laundry, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE:** CLS services for children enrolled on the waiver can be complicated and eligibility difficult to determine. If your child is on the waiver, please discuss CLS carefully with your Supports Coordinator.

Community Mental Health of Ottawa County wants to work with you to avoid potential misuse of Federal Medicaid dollars. If you are uncertain, please ask.

We have an active compliance program and would rather work to correct a problem than implement investigative or punitive measures.



The activities and programs of this agency are brought to you by the members of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. The Michigan Department of Community Health provides financial support to this agency.



Community Mental Health of Ottawa County has been accredited by CARF for twelve of its programs.