



Notice of Change to the TennCare III Program – Coverage of CHOICES Services

Published March 25, 2025

The Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Finance & Administration is providing official notification of a planned change to the TennCare program. This change entails enhancements to the benefits available under the TennCare CHOICES program. TennCare is publishing this notice pursuant to 42 CFR § 431.408 and the terms and conditions of the TennCare demonstration in order to solicit public input on this planned change.

Description of Planned Program Change

Within the TennCare demonstration, CHOICES provides an array of home- and community-based services (HCBS) to seniors and adults with physical disabilities.

Effective July 1, 2025, TennCare will cover the following benefits for individuals enrolled in CHOICES Group 2 and CHOICES Group 3.

- Employment Services and Supports, and
- Enabling Technology.

These benefits will be added to the array of HCBS available under CHOICES.

Employment Services and Supports consists of services designed to support individuals with disabilities in obtaining, maintaining, and/or advancing in a job or self-employment, including individual employment support, exploration, benefits counseling, discovery, situational observation and assessment, job development or start-up plan, job development or self-employment start up, job coaching, co-worker supports, career advancement, and integrated employment path services.

Enabling Technology is equipment and/or methodologies that, alone or in combination with associated technologies, provides the means to support an individual's increased independence in their homes, communities, and workplaces.

For more information about Employment Services and Supports and Enabling Technology available through CHOICES, see [Attachment E of the TennCare demonstration](#).

Explanatory Note

In 2022, TennCare began covering Employment Services and Supports and Enabling Technology for individuals enrolled in CHOICES. Coverage of these benefits was supported with temporary funding made available under Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Because the funding to support these benefits was time-limited, coverage of these benefits was time-limited. Under the terms of the TennCare demonstration, Employment Services and Supports and Enabling Technology are not covered benefits for CHOICES members after March 31, 2025.¹

To allow for ongoing coverage of these services, TennCare has requested legislative appropriations to continue coverage of these services for CHOICES members, beginning in State Fiscal Year 2026. The purpose of this notice is to inform members of the public that Employment Services and Supports and Enabling Technology services will be covered for CHOICES members beginning July 1, 2025, subject to legislative appropriations.

Expected Impact on Enrollment and Expenditures

The addition of Employment Services and Supports and Enabling Technology as covered benefits for CHOICES members on an ongoing basis will not result in the enrollment of additional persons in the TennCare program. Because these services were previously covered under the demonstration using American Rescue Plan Act funding, this change is also not expected to result in material changes to aggregate expenditures under the TennCare demonstration.

Evaluation Impact

TennCare does not anticipate modifying its evaluation design based on this planned change. This change is expected to contribute to key goals of the TennCare demonstration already reflected in the demonstration's evaluation design. These include supporting access to appropriate and cost-effective HCBS.

Waiver and Expenditure Authorities Requested

TennCare is not requesting any new waiver or expenditure authorities under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act to implement this change.

Under the terms of the TennCare III demonstration, TennCare may make changes that add allowable benefits to the program without seeking additional approval of a demonstration amendment from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

¹ The TennCare demonstration states that Employment Services and Supports and Enabling Technology are covered benefits for CHOICES members “until March 31, 2025, or until any subsequent deadline for states to expend funds associated with the enhanced FMAP for HCBS provided for by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, whichever is later.” The federal government has not established a subsequent deadline for states to expend funds associated with Section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act, and in any event Tennessee has exhausted its Section 9817 funding.

Public Notice Process

TennCare has taken a variety of steps to ensure that members of the public are notified of this planned change to the TennCare program. These measures include the development and maintenance of this webpage, as well as notices published in newspapers of general circulation in Tennessee communities with 50,000 or more residents.

In addition, this planned change was presented by TennCare as a budget request during the 2025 legislative session as part of the state budget through a public legislative process.

TennCare has also disseminated information about this proposed change via its social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, X/Twitter).

Public Input Process

TennCare is seeking feedback on this planned change. Members of the public are invited to offer comments regarding this change from March 25, 2025, through April 28, 2025.

Members of the public who wish to comment on this planned change may do so through either of the following options:

- Comments may be sent by email to public.notice.tenncare@tn.gov.
- Comments may be mailed to

Aaron Butler, Director of Policy
Division of TennCare
310 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37243.

Individuals who prefer to make their comments in person may attend one of the following public hearings to comment on these planned changes:

Virtual Hearing

Location: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODQ0YzBhZjMtMGQyNy00YzBjLWlxNDUtN2Q0MWEyZTA5OTU2%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22f345bebf-0d71-4337-9281-24b941616c36%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22d6fc60e6-dc2c-4e34-8262-ec0bb24d7bdb%22%7d

Date: April 10, 2025

Time: 2:00 p.m. CT

In-Person Hearing

Location: Tennessee Conference Room, TennCare Building, 310 Great Circle Road, Nashville, TN

Date: April 11, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. CT

TennCare always appreciates input. In order to be considered prior to implementation of this change, feedback must be received no later than April 28, 2025. Individuals wishing to view comments submitted by members of the public may submit their requests to the same physical address and/or email address at which comments are being accepted.

TennCare Demonstration

TennCare's website provides access to a [copy of the TennCare demonstration](#)

TennCare Page on CMS Web Site

As the federal agency with oversight authority over all Medicaid programs, CMS offers its own online resources regarding the TennCare demonstration. Interested parties may view these materials at [CMS's webpage for state waiver programs](#).

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-259-0701 (TTY: 1-800-848-0298).

We do not treat people in a different way because of their race, color, birth place, language, age, disability, religion, or sex. Additional information is available on TennCare's [Civil Rights Compliance webpage](#).