

In The **LOOP**

DECEMBER 2024



Save the Date

Disability Rights Legislative Day 2025

Disability Rights Legislative Day (DRLD) will be held February 26, 2025, in Jefferson City at the State Capitol. Those who attend will have opportunities to participate in a rally, hear speakers share and celebrate successes in the disability field, bring attention to on-going needs of people with disabilities, and speak to their legislators to connect and share personal stories. Follow the [DRLD website](#) for updates.



United States Department of Labor

Helping Workers with Disabilities get Ahead Through Good Jobs:

A Toolkit of Practical Strategies

The United States Department of Labor (DOL) has created toolkits to help employers find, hire, keep, and promote workers with disabilities in good jobs. The toolkits have a variety of approaches and practical advice, and share examples and resources from government agencies and other organizations that can be used by anyone.

The toolkits are organized into different topics including Defining Disability, Planning to Include Disabled Workers, Recruiting and Hiring Disabled Workers, Retaining and Supporting Disabled Workers, Advancing Disabled Workers, and Resources.

Find these toolkits and more on the [DOL's website](#).



Assistive Technology Devices Available for Moviegoers

Regal and American Multi-Cinema (AMC) theatres want to make watching movies on the big screen an enjoyable experience for everyone. Both theatres offer a variety of accommodations including assistive listening devices, closed captioning devices, descriptive audio services, and accessible seating options to assist moviegoers with mobility, hearing, and vision needs.

Learn more about what is available through [Regal](#) and [AMC](#) by visiting their websites or asking theatre staff for assistance in person.

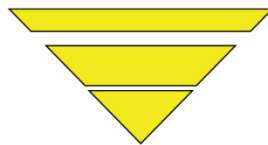


The Administration for Community Living (ACL) believes that all people, regardless of age or disability status, should be able to live independently, take part fully in their communities, have the right to make choices, and control the decisions concerning their lives.

ACL offers a variety of resource sheets and infographics that describe ACL programs, assist older adults and people with disabilities, support caregivers, encourage healthy living, and promote planning for emergencies.

These resources are on the [ACL's website](#) and can be downloaded or printed.

MISSOURI DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Division of Developmental Disabilities

Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver Renewals

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) administers four Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) 1915(c) waivers, including the Comprehensive Waiver, Community Support Waiver, Partnership for Hope Waiver, and the Missouri Children with Developmental Disabilities Waiver. Each Waiver must be reviewed and submitted to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval. The Comprehensive and Community Support Waivers

are currently being reviewed and must be submitted to CMS for approval prior to July 1, 2026.

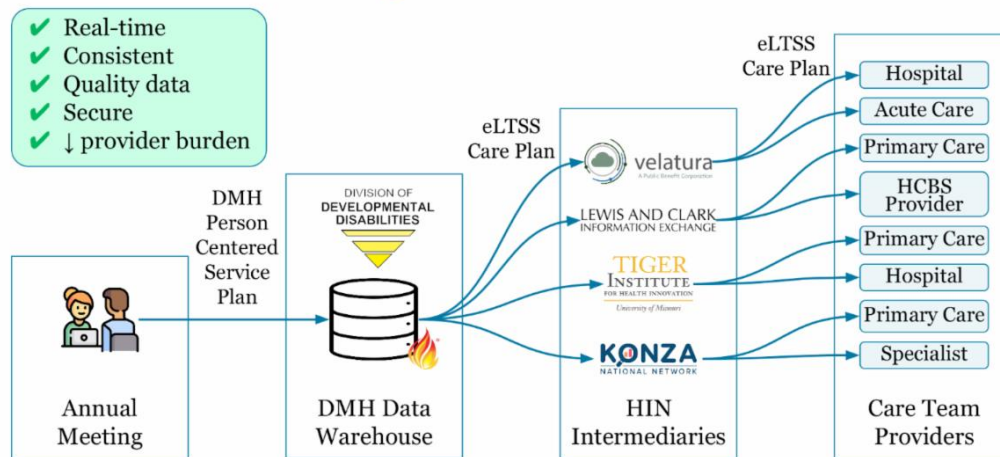
The Waiver renewal process must include public input from stakeholders, which includes individuals receiving services, family members, and service providers. Watch for notifications in the coming months from the Division about opportunities to provide feedback. More information is available on the [Division's HCBS Waivers](#) webpage.



FHIR-ed Up *for* INTEROPERABILITY

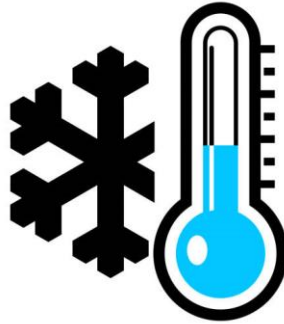
The Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities (DMH-DD), in partnership with the Office of Administration - Information Technology Services Division (OA-ITSD) has been gathering requirements and developing the State's technical architecture design documentation for Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) care plan exchange. Simultaneously, the State has been developing the Project Assessment Quotation (PAQ) requirements for Missouri's Health Information Networks (HINs) to participate in Phase 2 of the Electronic Long-Term Services and Supports (eLTSS) Data Exchange Project which will bring the care plan exchange interface into production in 2025. Once implemented, providers in Missouri will be able to access person-centered service plans for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in their care from the State through a HIN intermediary of their choice. The graphic below depicts how the person centered service plan is generated and exchanged.

MO DMH eLTSS Data Exchange Project: Seamless data sharing across the individual's care team



The Missouri eLTSS Data Exchange project was featured at the [2024 ASTP Annual Meeting](#) during the “Person-Centered Care Planning and Social Care Referrals: FHIR Real World Implementation, Policy, and Technical Resources” breakout session on December 5, 2024. Toi Wilde, the Director of Strategic Information Technology Initiatives for the Division of Developmental Disabilities, presented on behalf of the State. The presentation featured demonstrations of the interface from the three participating HINs in Phase 1 to show how the eLTSS care plan data can be shared and displayed for providers.

As part of its strategic roadmap of interoperability initiatives to improve health outcomes for individuals with I/DD, the Division is considering opening a second round of the [HIE Onboarding Program](#). The first round resulted in enabling 15 Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers to connect to Missouri’s Health Information Exchange (HIE). The State would like to expand the network of HCBS providers who are able to participate in collecting, sharing, and receiving data for individuals in their care through the Missouri HIE.



Be Winter Weather Prepared

Winter weather can change quickly, so it is important to be prepared before an emergency happens. Emergency planning is a personal activity, as each person has their own unique needs that should be addressed in the planning process. People with disabilities, their families, and their caregivers should consider taking the extra planning steps now to handle winter weather events. Topic areas for planning can include:

- Driving safely in winter weather
- Preparing a safety kit to keep in your vehicle
- Planning for a power outage
- Avoiding frostbite and hypothermia
- Removing ice and snow
- Communication factors
- Medication needs
- Equipment and needed medical devices
- Checking road conditions before leaving home

More winter weather safety tips and resources can be found at:

- [Official Missouri State Website](#)
- [Missouri Department of Transportation \(MODOT\) Traveler's Information Map](#)
- [Missouri Department of Public Safety/State Emergency Management Agency \(SEMA\) Severe Winter Weather](#)
- [Easterseals Winter Safety Tips for People with Disabilities](#)

- [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)
- [American Red Cross Winter Storm Preparedness](#)



Know an older person or a person with disabilities in need of help due to cold weather? Contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at 1-800-392-0210 or find a [Warming Centers in Missouri](#).



**Missouri System of Care
A Comprehensive Array of Supports and Services**

System of Care (SOC) promotes services and supports for children, youth, and young adults who have or are at risk of experiencing mental health or other challenges. SOC teams help build meaningful partnerships between youth, their families, and their communities that, in turn, help them thrive in their home, in school, and in society throughout life. SOC promotes mental health services that focus on prevention, early identification, and intervention in addition to treatment to help address the needs of all children, youth, and young adults.

The core values of a SOC include being family and youth driven, community-based, and culturally and linguistically responsive.

SOC teams are made up of the child, youth, or young adult needing services, family members, natural supports, family and youth serving organizations, Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Department of Health and Senior Services, public health providers, Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, child educators, school personnel, Division of Youth Services, Children's Division, Family Support, and juvenile justice partners.

Explore the [Missouri System of Care](#) website for additional information or to locate a SOC team map.



Director's Creativity Showcase Seeking Artwork Submissions

The Missouri Mental Health Foundation (MMHF) is looking for artwork for the Director's Creativity Showcase (DCS). The Showcase is an annual art contest that provides a chance for individuals across the state who are receiving Department of Mental Health services to create, share, and submit their artwork to be displayed and judged. Categories of artwork include representations from mental illness, substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, crafts, and photography. A panel of community volunteers will judge featured artwork and assign awards. Some selected works of art will receive cash awards, be on display through the Traveling Showcase, and some artwork will be for sale during the Mental Health Champions' Award Banquet on May 1, 2025. Artwork must be submitted and delivered to the DCS by January 31, 2025. Judging will take place February 19-20, 2025.

Visit the [Director's Creativity Showcase](#) webpage to view and download a submission packet and note important deadline dates. Questions can be directed to 573-635-9201 or mmhf@missourimhf.org.



State Offices Closed

State Offices will be closing Tuesday, **December 24, 2024, at 12 p.m.** They will also be closed Wednesday, **December 25, 2024,** and Wednesday, **January 1, 2025.**

Stay Connected



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Contact Us

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[Regional Office Contact Information](#)

Missouri Department of Mental Health
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