



Home and Community Based Services Access Act (HAA)

Home and community-based services, also known as HCBS, are critical services that support disabled people and older adults living independently in their own homes and communities. Funded primarily by Medicaid, home and community-based services support disabled people and older adults with day-to-day activities, such as getting dressed, preparing meals, assisting with medications, providing on the job support, and using transportation.

However, these services aren't available to everyone who needs them, and, simultaneously, the direct care workers who provide those services are extremely underpaid. The current patchwork of programs to provide long-term care in this country doesn't meet the growing demand for these services. This forces people who need care and their family members into untenable situations, where they have to choose between the care they or their loved ones need and keeping their jobs. The HCBS Access Act would help solve the care crisis for care recipients, family caregivers, and direct care workers.

The HCBS Access Act (HAA):

Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Bob Casey (D-PA) and Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6) and Jamaal Bowman (D-NY-16) introduced the Home and Community-Based Services Access Act, or HCBS Access Act (HAA) on March 8th, 2023 in the Senate and the House, respectively. The HCBS Access Act is focused on requiring coverage of HCBS under Medicaid and expanding access. **Under this bill, anyone who is eligible for Medicaid HCBS would be entitled to receiving it.**

The HCBS Access Act would:

- Require state Medicaid programs to provide HCBS to all who are eligible, which would bring approximately 1 million people into services and eliminate waiting lists.
- Provide matching federal funds for HCBS to states at 100%.
- Support high-quality jobs and competitive wages and benefits for direct care workers.
- Expand paid supports for family caregivers, including respite care and training opportunities, and make it possible for family caregivers to maintain employment.
- Require states to increase availability of personal care services, and help disabled people join the workforce by requiring states to improve programs that help disabled workers keep their Medicaid-funded HCBS.
- Make Money Follows the Person and Spousal Impoverishment Protections Permanent.

Additional Resources:

- Bill Text: [S. 762](#) and [H.R. 1493](#)
- [Home and Community Based Services \(HCBS\) Access Act](#) (U.S. Senate Committee on Aging)
- [Dingell, Casey, Bowman, Introduce Legislation to Make Home Care Coverage Mandatory Under Medicaid](#) (Office of U.S. Representative Dingell)