

DESCRIPTION OF HART-SUPPORTED LIVING

Hart-Supported Living is a program that is based on individually designed plans for support. These plans provide people with disabilities the help they need to live successfully in a home of their choice and to participate in their community. The individual with a disability (and the people who support them) plan and design a set of services which meets the person's needs and is consistent with the principles of Supported Living. If the individual's request for funding is approved, then funds are made available so that the plan can be implemented.

PRINCIPLES OF SUPPORTED LIVING

Kentucky Supported Living was started in 1992 when the Kentucky Supported Living Statute was passed. The statute was amended in 2006, and the program is now called Hart-Supported Living.

This law defines Hart-Supported Living as "grants which provide a broad category of highly flexible, individualized services which, when combined with natural unpaid or other eligible paid supports" provide the necessary assistance for the individual to live in the community. The statute requires that the Hart-Supported Living program promote:

- **Choice** over how, when, and by whom supports are provided and over where and with whom a person with a disability lives.
- **Responsibility** of the person with a disability and his or her representative for managing grants and the provision of service under the grant.
- **Freedom** to live a meaningful life and to participate in the community with members of the general citizenry:
- Enhancement of **health and safety**.
- **Flexibility** of services that change as the person's needs change without the individual having to move elsewhere for services.
- Use of **generic options** and **natural supports**.
- Well-planned and proactive **opportunities to determine** the kinds and amounts of support desired, with the meaningful participation of the individual, the individual's family or guardian where appropriate, friends, and professionals.
- **Home ownership or leasing** with the home belonging to the person with a disability, that person's family, or to a landlord to whom rent is paid.

HART-SUPPORTED LIVING IS NOT. . .

- ❖ **NOT** a program where an eligible individual is enrolled, then chooses services from a list of available supports and then has those services provided by employees of an agency. The supports and services received through Hart-Supported Living are designed and managed by the individual and those who support him or her. Managing the plan may include hiring employees to provide services or contracting with an agency for services.

- ❖ **NOT** an income support program. Hart-Supported Living does not provide funding for on-going living expenses such as mortgage or rent payments, utility bills, food costs, repairs unrelated to a person's disability, unpaid medical bills or health insurance premiums, or the purchase or rental of a vehicle.
- ❖ **NOT** an entitlement program. Whether or not an eligible application is funded depends upon the amount of funding available.

The Statute also states that Hart-Supported Living does **not** include any services that:

- Physically or socially isolates people who are disabled from the general population.
- Does not allow adults with disabilities as much control over their living arrangements as they can manage; or
- Includes more than three unrelated people with disabilities living together.

CONFUSING OTHER PROGRAMS

Hart-Supported Living is sometimes confused with other programs with similar names. The *Supports for Community Living (SCL)* program is a Medicaid waiver program that is for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Here is a comparison between the two programs:

HART-SUPPORTED LIVING

Funded entirely by State money

Any individual with a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act may apply for the Supported Living grant.

If funded, the individual receives funds to manage the plan, hiring individuals or an agency to provide services.

There is no waiting list. Individuals apply each year for funding available during each Fiscal Year.

SUPPORTS FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

Funded by Medicaid (Federal and State money)

Must have an intellectual or developmental disability to apply to waiting list.

When services are received, an Individual Support Plan is developed and providers are chosen from an approved provider list or can choose the Consumer Directed Option.

Individual fill out a short application to get on regional waiting list.

Additional information about the Supports for Community Living Waiver can be found on MHMR Web Site at

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/dca/iddcsb/Pages/scl-waiver.aspx>

Assisted Living is a general term used to describe programs where individuals live in their own living units in a congregate setting. Assistance with transportation, medication, meals and housekeeping may be provided. This is often a private pay situation. Hart-Supported Living is not an assisted living program.

ELIGIBILITY FOR HART-SUPPORTED LIVING

Any person with a disability who is a resident of Kentucky or whose family or guardian is a resident of Kentucky is eligible to apply for Hart-Supported Living. The person with a disability may be living with a family member, independently, or in a congregate setting and be eligible to **apply** for services. If the individual is living in a congregate setting such as an institution, nursing home or group home, the requested Hart-Supported Living grant must be for a living situation that is consistent with Hart-Supported Living principles.

The Hart-Supported Living statute uses the definition of disability found in the Americans with Disabilities Act. A person with a disability means someone with a physical or mental impairment that *substantially* limits a major life activity such as caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.

Planning: How Do I Decide What I Want to Ask For?

The first step in thinking about a Hart-Supported Living grant is to figure out what supports and services you need to live in and be a part of your community. You may already have a good idea of what you want and need, or you may need to figure this out with your family and friends. You should think about what your long-term goals are and what steps you need to take to reach your goals. You should think about the natural supports you already receive from family and friends and the 'formal' supports you can receive from service providers and agencies. Then you need to decide what other supports you need to meet your goals and to live in the community. These are the supports and services you may decide to request from Supported Living. If you do receive a grant, it is important to remember that **you** will be arranging for the supports and services, and you should have a solid plan for how you would implement your proposed plan.

Obtaining An Application

You may obtain an application by: 1) requesting it from your Regional Coordinator; 2) requesting it from the State Coordinator; or 3) downloading the application from this [website](#). You may also obtain an application from a variety of agencies. Make sure that the Application is version approved in **January 2024**.

