How do Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) help children/youth and families/caregivers?

Children’s HCBS:
- Are provided where children/youth and families are most comfortable — at home or in the community
- Support children and youth as they work toward goals and achievements
- Help children and youth be successful at home, in school, and in other environments
- Offer personal, flexible services to meet the health, mental health, substance use treatment and/or developmental needs of each child/youth

Who can get Children’s HCBS?
Children’s HCBS are for children and youth who:
1) Need extra care at home/in the community
2) want to avoid going to the hospital or a long term facility
3) Are found eligible for HCBS*
4) Are enrolled or eligible to enroll in Medicaid. Note: Some children may be eligible for Medicaid if they are eligible for HCBS.

How can someone access Children’s HCBS?
Children/Youth and their families/caregivers can speak with a Health Home care manager**, or call the Children and Youth Evaluation Service at 1-833-333-2937 to find out how a child/youth can get Children’s HCBS.

**What is Health Home Care Management?
A Health Home is not a place, it is a person who can help you find services that are right for you and your family. Health Home Care Managers work together as a team with children/youth and their families and service providers to make sure they receive the care and services they need to stay healthy.

All Children eligible for HCBS can get care management services through the Health Home care management program. Children/Youth not enrolled in a Health Home care management program can call 518-473-5569 or email hhsc@health.ny.gov to get more information and/or enroll.

*Enrollment in HCBS requires participation in the Children’s 1915c waiver

To find out more about Children’s Home and Community-Based Services, contact your healthcare provider, Health Home care manager, Medicaid Managed Care Plan, County SPOA, or the Children and Youth Evaluation Service.
Community Habilitation
Get help with learning social and daily living skills and health related tasks
- For example: Learn to cook and eat healthy; take part in community activities; communicate effectively; be independent, and make informed choices

Day Habilitation
Get help with learning social and daily living skills in an agency setting
- For example: Build relationships; take part in community activities; gain independence, and make informed choices

Caregiver/Family Support and Services
- Caregivers and families can get training and education to make informed and empowered choices for children with developmental, medical, mental health, and/or substance use needs
- Maintain and strengthen children and youth’s independence in the community
- Find available resources and services that meet child/youth and family needs

Community Self Advocacy Training and Support
- Children, youth, and their families can get help to understand developmental, medical, mental health, and/or substance use needs
- Get help with, or prevent, any difficulties when taking part in community activities
- Children and youth, or caregivers and other advocates, can get their own self-advocacy training

Prevocational Services
Youth aged 14 and older can learn skills to help get ready for paid work, or volunteer work that matches their interests
- Skills can include: communicating with supervisors, coworkers, and customers; workplace problem-solving; career planning; and workplace safety

Supported Employment
- Youth aged 14 and older who are ready for a job can get help to stay in a steady job that pays wages
- Get ongoing support while getting a job and while working
Services can include, but are not limited to:
- Help with finding a job that matches your skills and interests; job coaching; benefits support; help with advancing your career; and other workplace support services

Respite Services (Planned Respite and Crisis Respite)
- May be delivered at home, in the community, or in another allowable location
- Planned respite services provide short term relief for families/caregivers and support the child’s mental health, substance use and/or health care goals
- Crisis respite is short term relief from a mental health, substance use and/or health care crisis event that without this support the child would need a higher level of care

Palliative Care
Children and Youth with chronic or life-threatening illnesses can get these services:
- Massage Therapy to improve and relieve physical symptoms
- Art, music, and play therapy to help better understand and express emotions
- Pain and symptom management to relieve and/or control suffering
- Bereavement counseling to help children/youth and families cope with grief related to end-of-life experiences

Environmental Modifications
Changes to a child or youth’s home to help with their health needs

Vehicle Modifications
Changes to a child or youth’s vehicle to help with their health needs

Adaptive and Assistive Equipment
Technological aids or other devices needed to support children/youth health, welfare and safety

Non-Medical Transportation
Transportation to services or activities that support goals