Tennessee’s Katie Beckett Program

FULLY FUNDED

CMS APPROVED

In 2018, families of children with complex medical needs and significant disabilities began to unite behind a common problem: parental income and/or assets deemed their child ineligible for Medicaid. Their stories of balancing mounting medical debt against their children’s critical healthcare needs, of constant worry and lack of sleep for years on end moved all who heard them to take action. A grassroots campaign began.

The 111th General Assembly passed legislation sponsored by Representative Sam Whitson and Senator Kerry Roberts to create a Katie Beckett Program and voted to fully fund the waiver at $72 million state and federal dollars. The program was signed into law by Governor Bill Lee in May 2019. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved the proposal in early November 2020. Registration started a record three weeks later. Six hundred applications were received on opening day.

**Part A** serves children who meet an institutional level of care, but are served in the home and community. It is a “traditional” Katie Beckett model providing full Medicaid benefits. This program offers additional wraparound services capped at $15,000. Part A may eventually serve up to 300 children, however, only Tier 1 is currently open for enrollment. The three standards comprising Tier 2 are closed and therefore wait-listing children. Families are supported by Bluecare Case Managers via TennCare Select in Part A.

**Part B** is a “Medicaid diversion” program serving children with disabilities including those who are at-risk for institutionalization. Home- and community- based services (HCBS) are capped at a maximum of $10,000. Up to 2,700 children may be served. Part B families are supported by the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) Case Managers.

Families may choose any or all of the HCBS components:

* Health insurance premium reimbursement (child’s portion)
* Paying for healthcare and related expenses that are medically necessary expenses like co-pays, deductibles, durable medical equipment (Related to IRS pub. 502)
* Non-traditional therapy or supports that are medically necessary but do not meet IRS guidelines
* Self-directed respite or supportive home care
* Agency-based HCBS

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| Respite | Community Integration Supports |
| Supportive Home Care | Family Caregiver Education and Training |
| Assistive Technology and Adaptive Equip | Decision Making Supports |
| Vehicle Modification | Health Insurance Counseling |
| Minor Home Modification | Community Support Development |
| Community Transportation | Family-to-Family Support |

Katie Beckett Intake as of February 9, 2021

* 878 total applications
* 361 Part B enrollments
* 9 Part A enrollments, 10 pending financial review or premium payment

To apply for the Katie Beckett program, visit: [www.tenncareconnect.tn.gov](http://www.tenncareconnect.tn.gov/)

or

Call your regional DIDD office:

West: 866-372-5709 Middle: 800-654-4839 East: 888-531-9876

Join the Tennessee Disability Coalition’s Katie Beckett Community of Support on Facebook for parent to parent support and weekly check-ins: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/katiebeckettTN>