

# Children's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Referral and Authorization Portal User Guide

Updated July 2025

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#### **SECTION 1 – PORTAL ACCESS**

## I. Accessing the System

The Children's HCBS Referral and Authorization Portal is located in the Incident Reporting & Management System (IRAMS) platform. IRAMS is accessed through the Health Commerce System (HCS). To learn more about accessing IRAMS through HCBS, users can reference the <a href="New York State Department of Health IRAMS">New York State Department of Health IRAMS</a> Access Guide.

#### A. User Guide Features

This manual uses various terms to describe the entities involved in managing HCBS referrals as well as the different status associated with segments of the referral process. A list of terms and referral status <u>definitions</u> is included in the Appendix of this document.

#### II. Permissions and Roles Home Screen

#### A. HCBS Provider, Care Manager, and Health Home Roles

Within the Referral and Authorization Portal, there are distinct roles that will allow Children's HCBS providers, care managers, and Health Homes to view and manage referrals. Below are the different role options:

HCBS Provider Roles	Permissions
Manage Child Referrals	Edit Child Case Page
	View and Respond to Referrals
	Discharge Services
	Create and Manage HCBS Authorizations
View Child Referral	View Child Case Page, Referral, Authorizations, and
	Statuses
IRAMS Gatekeeper	Grant Portal Permissions to Staff
Care Manager Roles	Permissions
Manage Child Referrals	Create and Manage/Edit Referrals
	Edit Child Case Page
	View Authorizations
View Child Referral	View Child Case Page, Referral, Authorizations, and
	Statuses
IRAMS Gatekeeper	Grant Portal Permissions to Staff
Health Home & Department Roles	Permissions
View Child Referrals	View Child Referral

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#### **SECTION 2 – REFERRAL PROCESS**

## I. Prior to Making a Referral

Once the Health Home (HH)/Children and Youth Evaluation Services (C-YES) Care Manager has established eligibility for the participant and discussed the necessary services with the participant and family, the HHCM/C-YES should enter the Referral and Authorization Portal to submit a referral for the needed HCBS.

- Care managers will only be able to view and make referrals for participants enrolled in care management with their agency within the Portal
- Care managers (HHCM and C-YES) are the only users who can make referrals in the Portal
- Health Homes will be able to see referrals and case information for all participants with their CMAs in the Portal

Referrals cannot be created for participants in the following circumstances:

- Participants with expired HCBS Eligibility
- Participants without or expired Medicaid
- Participants without or expired K Codes

The care manager **must** have verbal consent from the participant/parent/guardian to send a referral to each agency. A DOH-5201 consent form/C-YES consent form is not needed to send a referral. A completed consent form is needed if sharing confidential Protected Health Information (PHI) documentation beyond what is in the referral.

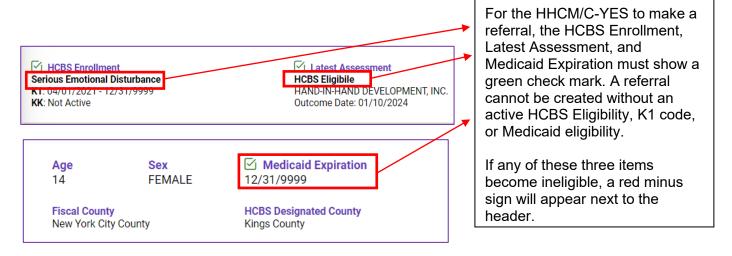
If a participant's eligibility status changes (i.e., loses Medicaid, disenrolls from the Waiver, etc.), the system will not automatically close/withdraw a referral for the participant, but an alert will show in the system indicating the participant's circumstances (i.e., no Medicaid, no K1, etc.).

 HCBS providers cannot serve a participant who does not have active Medicaid or HCBS eligibility and enrollment. The care manager and HCBS provider should communicate as needed regarding status of the participant's circumstances.

If a participant has transferred Care Management Agencies, the new CMA will inherit the participant's case in the Referral and Authorization Portal.

- Once the case is transferred from one CMA to another in the Health Home Tracking System (HHTS), the participant's case will then transfer in IRAMS within 24 hours
- The new care manager will be responsible for completing any required next steps for the participant's referrals going forward
- The new care manager will not receive a notification within the Referral and Authorization Portal indicating a participant has been transferred to their agency, however, any action needed on the case will appear in the new care manager's Daily Digest email

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Upon completion of the HCBS LOC, the HHCM/C-YES will complete the Freedom of Choice form with the participant/family/caregiver.

The HHCM/C-YES will discuss each of the HCBS, including an overview of the intent of HCBS and requirements for participation, service names and descriptions, applicable service limitations/exclusions, and overview of the HCBS referral process.

The HHCM/C-YES will work with the participant/family to identify which HCBS the family would like to receive and which HCBS provider(s) the participant/family would like a referral sent to.

In preparation to submit a referral, the HHCM/C-YES will obtain **all** of the needed information to complete a referral, including but not limited to:

- Participant availability for services (i.e. schedule of any currently existing education programs, regularly scheduled appointments, extracurricular activities, etc. that the participant attends).
- Participant/family preferences and requirements in staffing (i.e. gender of staff, experience of staff, specific skills/interest of staff, language or culture of staff, etc.).
- Participant/family preferences and requirements in scheduling (i.e. weekend only service provision, etc.).
- Participant/family preference in service location (i.e. services on-site, at specific community location, etc.).
- Additional information relevant to caring for/serving the participant such as:
  - Any special medical equipment the participant would require during service delivery such as a g-tube,
  - Any conditions that could impact service delivery such as seizure conditions or accessibility needs,
  - Any participant behaviors that may impact service delivery such as aversion to certain settings or history of elopement
  - Any additional information that an HCBS provider would need to know to be able to make an appropriate staff assignment.

HHCM/C-YES should obtain a clear understanding of what is a **preference versus a requirement** in staffing and scheduling. This information will later be included on the referral. **Inaccurate/incomplete information on referrals leads to service access delays and can be frustrating to families.** 

# II. Child Case Page

The Child Case Page provides basic information about the participant including enrollment and July 2025

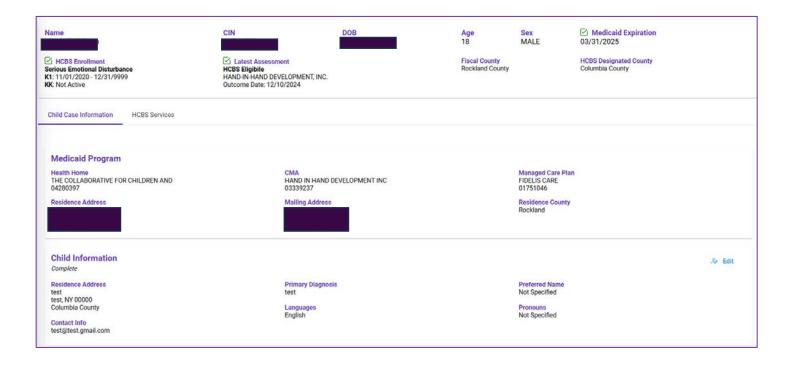
demographic information.

- Much of the details included on the Child Case Page such as name, gender, Medicaid Client Identification Number (CIN), Date of Birth (DOB), address, and enrollment information will be pre-populated in the Referral and Authorization Portal with information obtained from other systems (i.e., eMedNY, HHTS, etc.)
- Care managers and HCBS providers are able to update most of these fields based upon information shared by the participant and family.
- The Child Case Page is automatically created in the Referral and Authorization Portal after an HCBS Eligibility Determination is finalized in the Uniform Assessment System (UAS) by a HH/C-YES care manager.
- Items that are not prepopulated but are applicable to the participant must be filled out by a HHCM/C-YES. The Child Case Page must be complete **before** an HCBS referral can be submitted.

**NOTE:** all fields marked with "\*" are REQUIRED. If these fields are not completed, the user will not be able to create a referral.

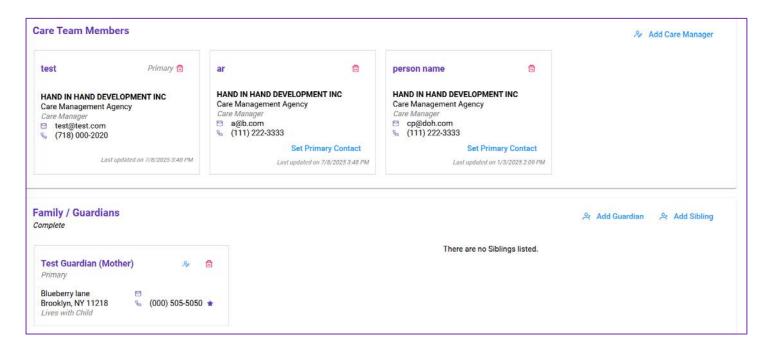
Care managers and HCBS providers, once selected, will have the ability to edit the Child Case Page. Medicaid Managed Care Plans will have a view-only role of the Child Case page for participants in their organization.

The below screenshots provide an overview of what users will see when viewing a Child Case Page



Under the Care Team Members section, users will find contact details (name, phone, email) of the HHCM/C-YES, HCBS provider (once selected) and other team members. For Family/Guardian Information, users can view details of parents/ guardians associated with the participant. This includes names and contact information on who the participant resides with and their relationship to the participant. This section also provides information on siblings living in the household, along with their status regarding HCBS and Health Home enrollment.

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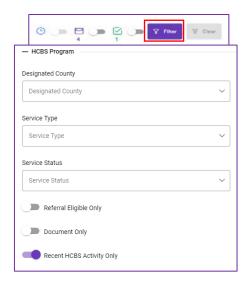
In the Schedule and Activity Information section, users will see details about the participant's weekly schedule, including school hours, appointments, extracurricular activities, and summer activities. If the participant is in foster care or in a facility, users can see information about this placement.

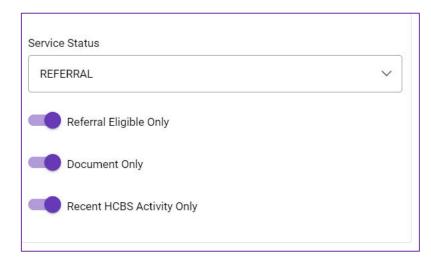


### A. Filters

The Child List Page can be filtered to allow users to view their caseloads according to different criteria

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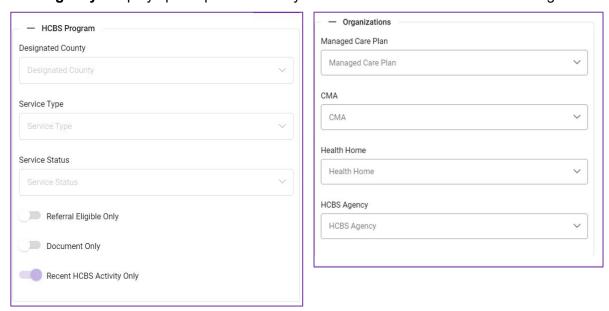


To refine a search, click the **Filter** button located in the upper right-hand corner of the page. This will bring up the box below where users can filter by designated counties, HCBS services, service status, and organizations. Users can also use the filters to narrow down their search by Managed Care Plan, CMA, Health Home, and HCBS Agency.

To check the 'Service Status,' the toggle feature may be used to filter through referral eligible only, documents only, and recent HCBS activity only.

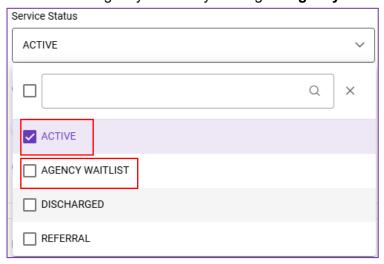
The following are filters that can be applied:

- Service Type: Displays participants that selected services in IRAMS. The service may be active or inactive.
- Service Status: Displays participants that have services with the selected statuses.
- **Referral Eligible Only**: Displays participants that are referral eligible. This includes participants with active K1, active LOC, and active Medicaid enrollment.
- **Document Only**: Displays participants that have downloadable referral forms.
- Recent HCBS Activity Only: Displays participants that have an active or recently expired K1 or LOC, or participants with active referrals or services within IRAMS.
- HCBS Agency: Displays participants currently associated with the selected HCBS Agencies.



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The following shows an example of the Service Status filter. The user will click into the intended filter box and select the criteria they want to see in their search. If a user wants to see Active services, they must click **Active**. Agencies can filter their own agency waitlist by clicking on **Agency Waitlist**.



The user can add multiple filters to refine their search to specific criteria.

When users select the filter(s) they desire, the filter statuses are displayed at the top under the Child Summary Page, example below:



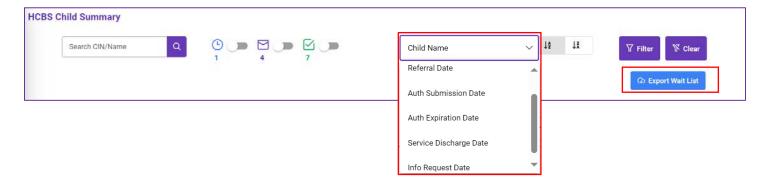
Participant Authorization Submission and Expiration Dates will be displayed on the Child List Page and can be used to sort the names and services of participants who currently receive and have previously received HCBS. The Child List Page can also be sorted by the Child's Name, Referral Date, Service Discharge Date, and Information Request Date.

Also on the Child Case Page is the Export Waitlist feature. Users can export their waitlist data, by selected "Export Waitlist". The exported waitlist file contains information about assigned participants and offers the ability to filter the data according to specific criteria. Users can click on the "Export Waitlist," and the export will automatically start to download. Once a user opens the file, they will find the items below to review for each participant:

- Member CIN
- Participant's
- Health Home Name & ID
- CMA Name & ID
- Plan Name & ID
- Agency Name
- VFCA Name
- Requested County
- Waitlisted Services
- Service

- Referral Status
- Referral Date
- Referral Date
- Waitlist Days
- Waitlist Reason
- Waitlist Expiration
- Expiration Status
- Agency Designation
- Active Services
- Referral Eligible: K1 Status, HCBS Eligible, Medicaid Eligible

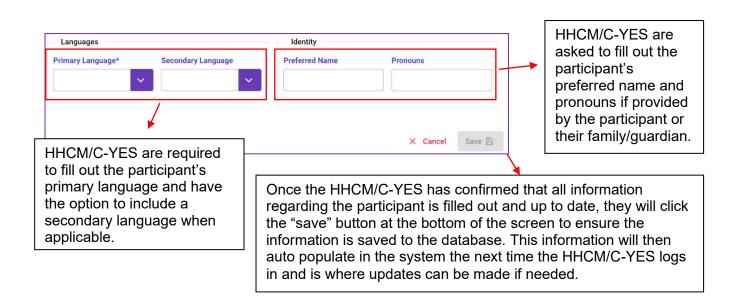
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#### B. Participant Information

Click the blue **Update** icon in the corner of the screen to fill out/update the participant's information.





**NOTE:** For languages, the dropdown contains a suggested list for autocomplete. Users can manually enter any additional value, as needed.

At any time, the HHCM/C-YES or HCBS Provider, once selected, can add additional information to the Child Case Page or update certain information, such as the participant's pronouns or preferred name.

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The HHCM/C-YES will need to confirm that the HCBS Designated County has been correctly recorded. If any of the following situations apply, the care manager must manually change the designated county of the participant within the system:

- 1. If the participant's Medicaid county of residence is in NYC
- 2. If the participant's Medicaid county is listed as a Special county in Medicaid (OMH)
- 3. If there is a discrepancy between Medicaid residence county and the county of the residence zip code
- 4. If the participant is in Foster Care and the Medicaid fiscal county differs from the physical location where the participant resides

In these circumstances, the HHCM/C-YES will need to select the correct county by clicking 'Edit County'.



The HHCM/C-YES can choose the HCBS Designated County from the drop-down menu.



The participant's Designated County must be accurate in order to receive services from HCBS providers who are designated to serve in the county in which the participant resides. The 'Edit County' option will only appear if the participant falls into one of the four circumstances outlined above.

#### C. Care Team Member Information

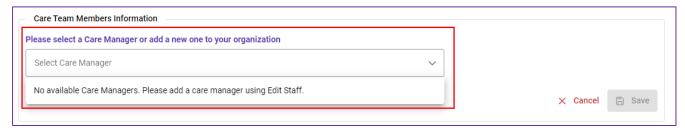
Information about members of the participant's care team will be added to this section in order to maintain efficient lines of communication. To submit a referral, the participant's HHCM/C-YES contact information must be added to this section of the Child Case page. The HHCM/C-YES name, email, and phone number are required fields. This care team member is different from the staff member who submitted the participant's referral and whose name is listed on that document.

HHCM/C-YES and HCBS providers can add or edit Care Team Members on the Child Case Page. When users click the **Add Staff** button, they will see the relevant options.

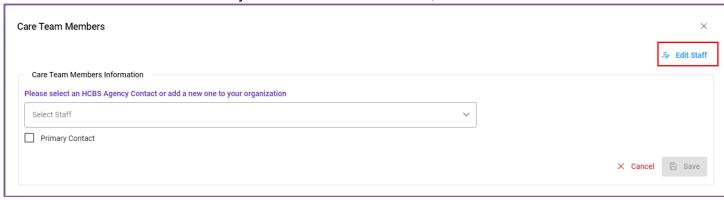
Care Team Members  △ Atleast one care manager is required	♣ Add Staff
There are no care team members assigned to this child.	

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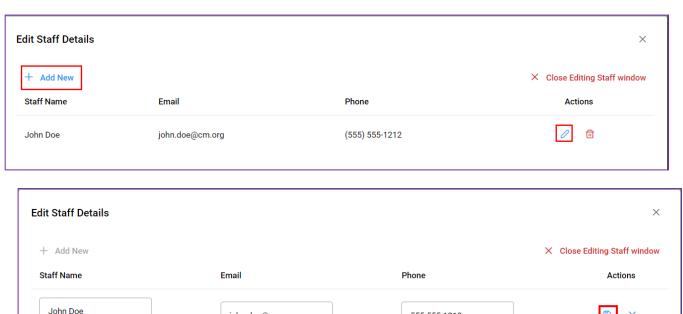
If no care managers are present in the system, the following will appear.



To view care team members in the system and add new members, click Edit Staff.



The following page will open. Users can either click the pencil icon to edit a pre-existing staff member or click **Add New** to add a new staff member.



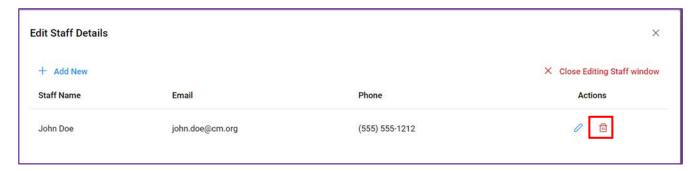
Enter the Staff's name, email and phone number then click the **Save icon**.

john.doe@cm.org

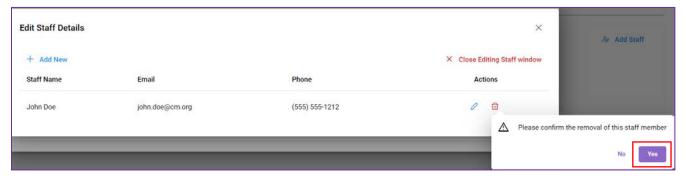
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555-555-1212

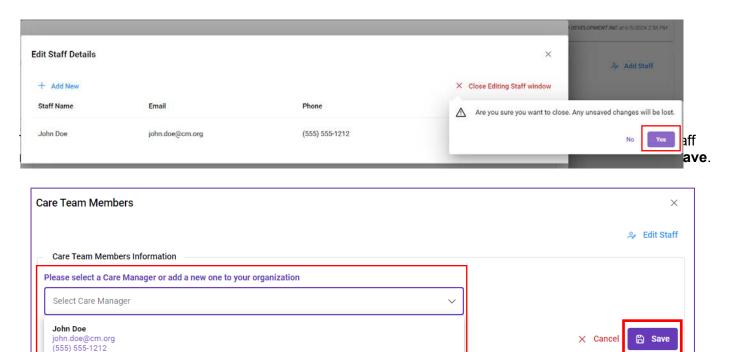
Users can also delete a staff member by clicking the **trash icon**.



Users will need to confirm their intent to delete the staff member.



When users have finished editing and adding staff members, they can click **Close Editing Staff Window** and confirm they saved all their intended changes.



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Once a Care Team Member has been successfully added, their name and contact information will appear on the Child Case Page.

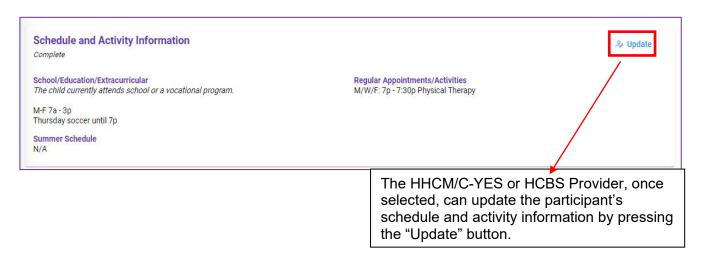


If a participant is transferred between Care Management Agencies, their new HHCM/C-YES will need to be listed on the Child Case Page before a referral can be made.

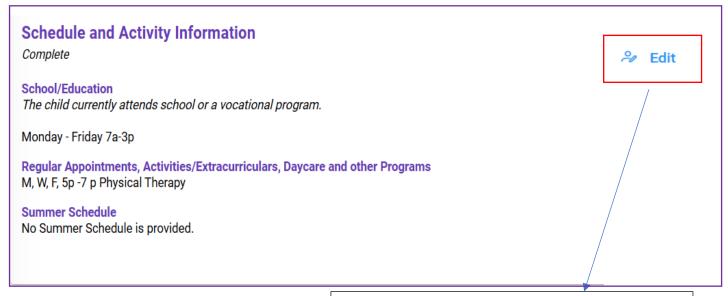
**NOTE**: The staff contact that appears on a referral will be the name of the staff member who submitted the referral (and may not be the care manager). To view care manager contact information, users must navigate to the Care Team Member section of the Child Case Page.

## D. Schedule and Activity Information

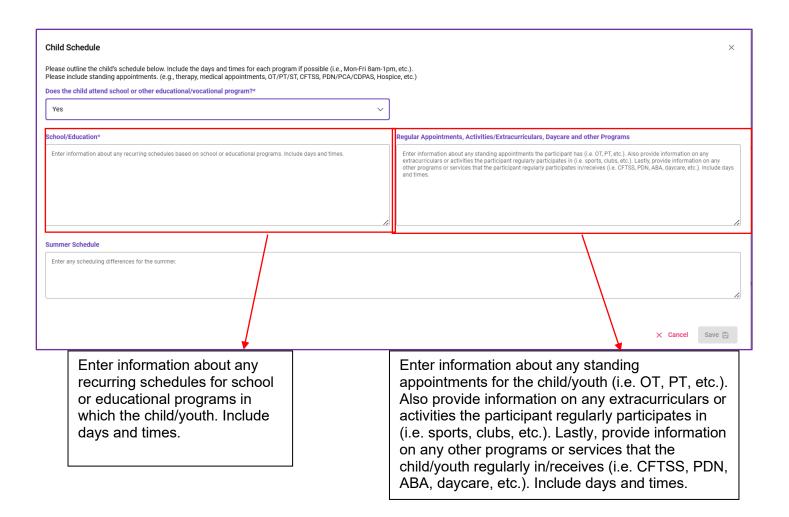
Schedule and Activity Information can be edited or added by clicking the **Update** button. Once completed, this section will show the participant's weekly schedule to help plan for their needed services.



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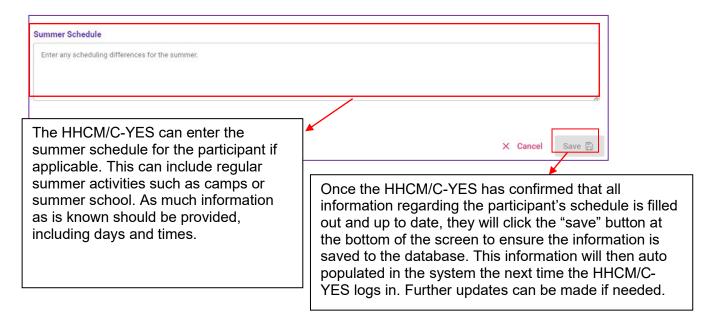


The HHCM/C-YES or HCBS provider, once selected, can update the participant's schedule and activity information by pressing the "Edit" button



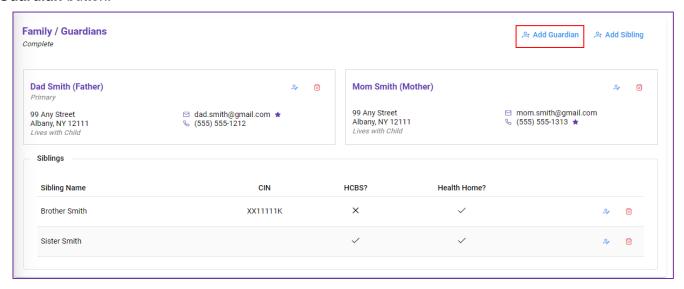
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The same is needed for a summer schedule as the HHCM/C-YES will have an opportunity to enter any scheduled activities and appointments. As the participant is provided with HCBS, the HCBS provider will be able to update the Child Case Page and keep it current as the participant's schedule changes.

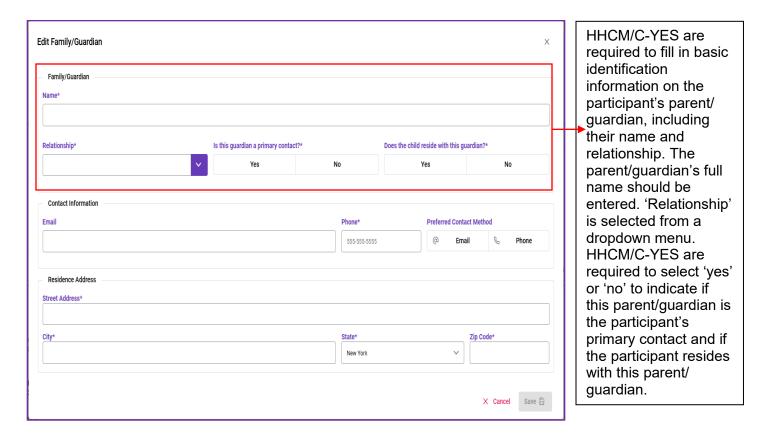


## E. Participant's Family/Guardian Information

To add or update information on Parents/Guardians/Legally Authorized Representations click the **Add Guardian** button.

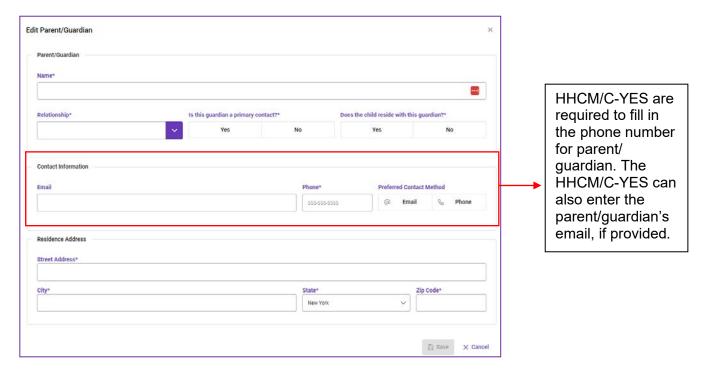


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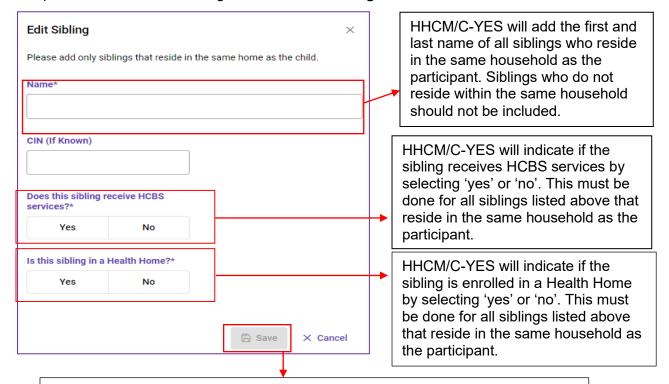
In some situations, the participant may be the main point of contact. To indicate this, the HHCM/C-YES can select "Self" in the Relationship field.

Though there is a drop-down provided for the "Relationship", users may choose to type free text in the box if they feel their situation is not accurately captured by the drop-down options.

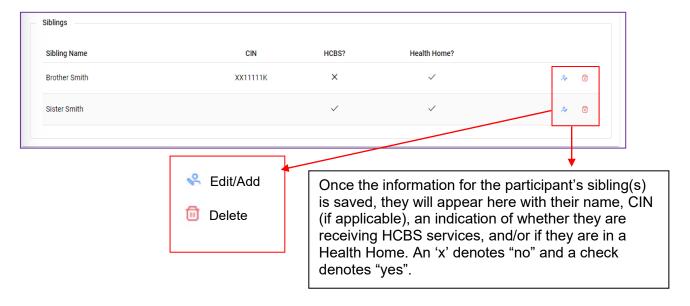


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To add or update information on Siblings click the **Add Sibling** button.



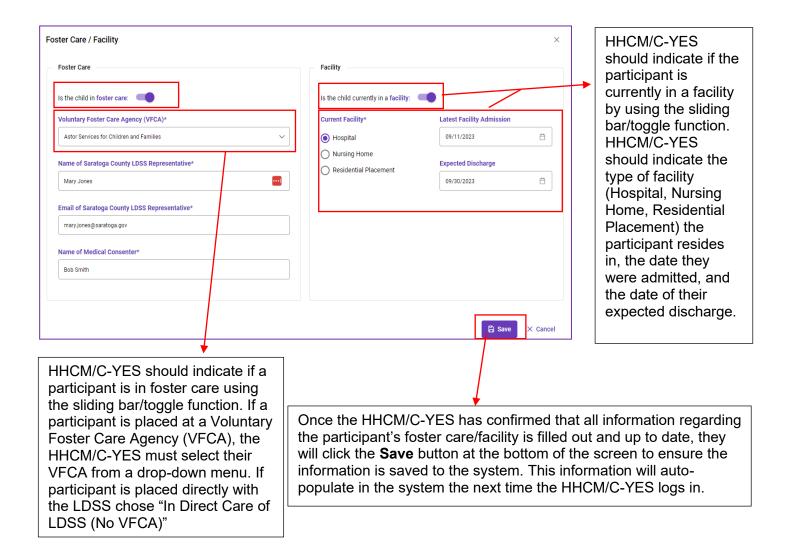
Once the HHCM/C-YES has confirmed that all information regarding the participant's sibling(s) is filled out and up to date, they will click the **Save** button at the bottom of the screen to ensure the information is saved to the database. This information will then auto populate in the system the next time the HHCM/C-YES logs in.



## F. Foster Care/Facility Information

This section is **only** to be filled out for participants who are currently placed in foster care or in a facility.

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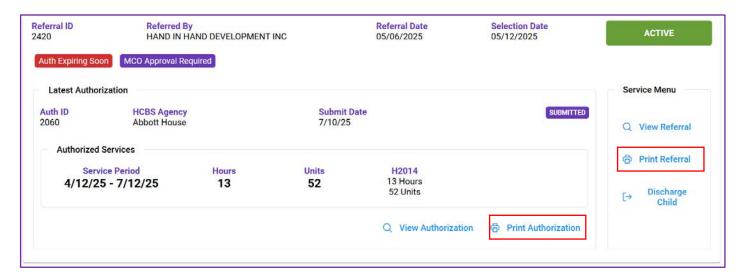
Since the HHCM/C-YES can conduct the HCBS Eligibility Determination for a planned discharge and get participant connected with services before discharge, the CM may complete a referral for a participant in a facility. The care manager will only need to fill in Facility Information if the participant is in a facility at the time the referral is made. When the participant is discharged from the facility, the facility toggle will need to be turned off.

**NOTE**: Once the HCBS provider has been selected to begin providing services to the participant, they will have the ability to update all information in the Child Case Page **EXCEPT** for the participant's primary diagnosis or information pre-populated from other systems (i.e., CIN, enrollment info, K-codes, etc.). The HCBS provider should ensure that any changes that are made to the participant's demographic information are updated on the Child Case Page within IRAMS. HCBS providers **must** update the Child Case Page when new information is available at the time they are taking action on the case.

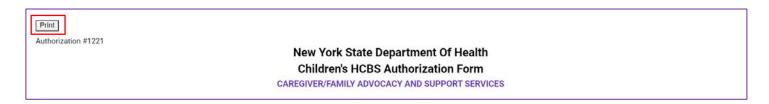
## G. Printing Referrals and Authorizations & Viewing Service History

After creating and finalizing referrals and authorizations, users can download a PDF and print these documents from the Child Case Page. Once the user clicks "Print Referral" or "Print Authorization", they will be taken to the PDF version, where in the top left corner they can click "Print". Once the user clicks "Print", they will have the option to save the referral or authorization as a PDF.

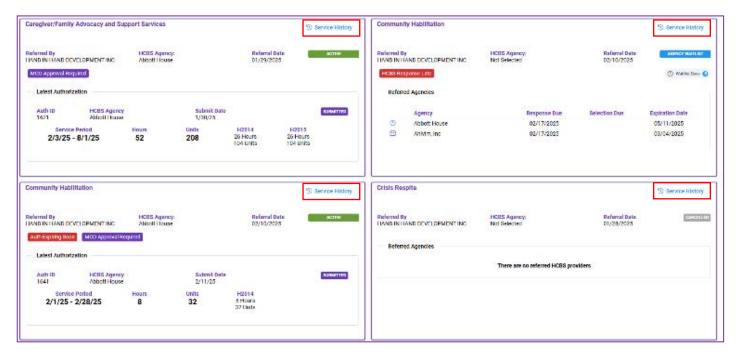
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Users will be able to print the referral or authorization for each service the participant is receiving and any previous services they have received.



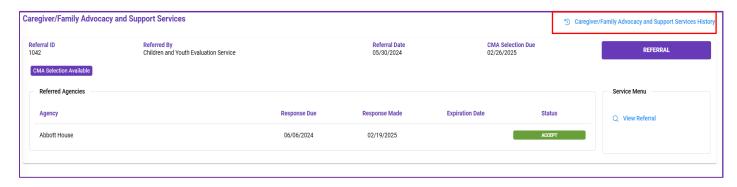
In order to view service history, users can navigate to the Children's Service Page then click **View Documents** to see discharge information.



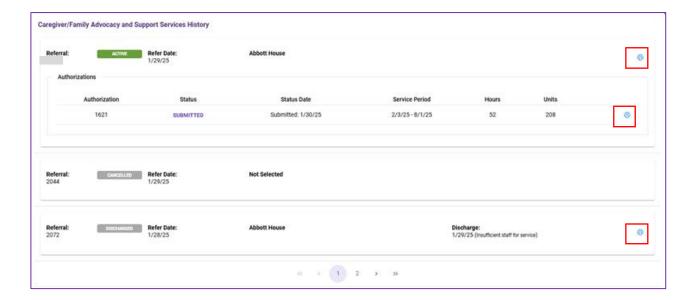
History for specific services can be accessed via the HCBS Services page within the specific service at the top right corner. Using this function allows users to view the status of all submitted requests in addition to the July 2025

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discharge date and reason and printing capabilities. Users can see the status of any Actively assigned services, as well as the status of any open referrals for the same service, as applicable.



HCBS providers, HHCM/C-YES, and MMCPs must verify that they are maintaining PHI protocols when printing and downloading documents with sensitive information pertaining to the participant.

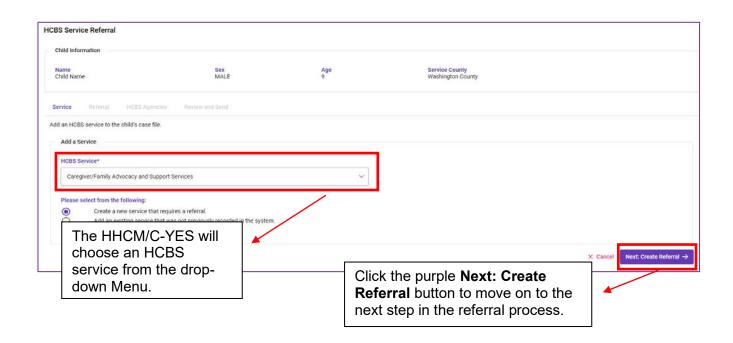


# III. Making a Referral

## A. Choosing an HCBS

Each Home and Community Based Service is requested individually within the Portal. To submit a referral for a specific HCBS, the HHCM/C-YES will first choose an HCBS from the HCBS drop-down menu

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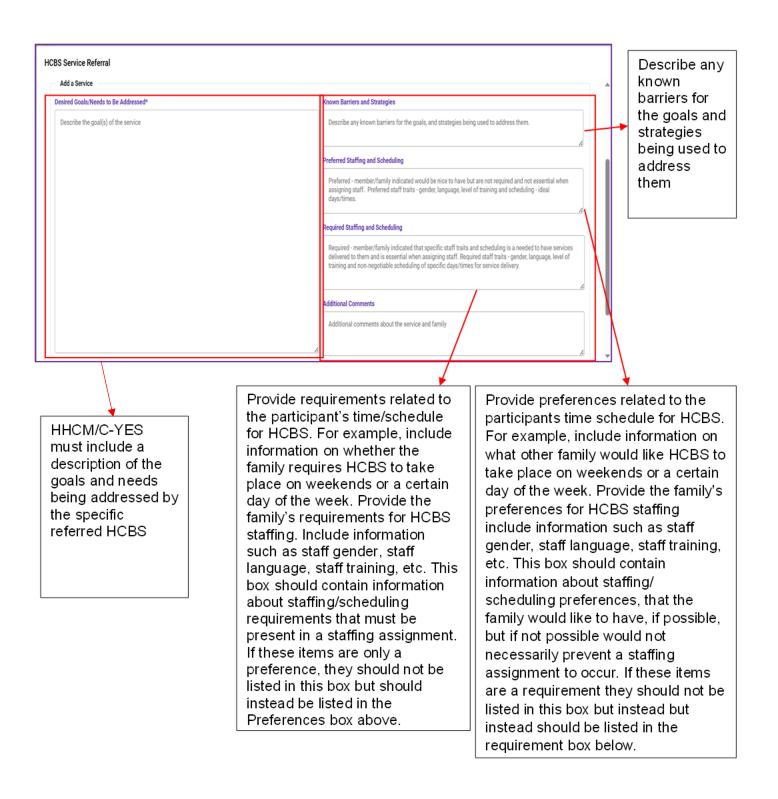
In the case that the HHCM/C-YES is viewing the participant's information from the Child Summary Page, they will see a pencil icon (shown below) if the participant is eligible to be referred for HCBS. The Child Summary Page consists of limited viewable information for historical purposes and other circumstances, including participant information such as CIN, DOB, and name.



# B. Entering Service Specific Details

The HHCM/C-YES **must** enter details as required, relating to the HCBS for which the participant is being referred. Clearly identify the needs of the participant, the goals to be achieved to meet the need, and why the service being referred is necessary. Details are necessary, as this section is used by HCBS Agencies to evaluate whether they will be able to provide the service and assign appropriate staff.

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After submitting all required information, the HHCM/C-YES can navigate to the tab by selecting NEXT: Search Provider

Next: Search Providers →

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Upon clicking the "NEXT: Search Providers" button, a confirmation box will appear. The HHCM/C-YES must verify that all required information is complete in order for the HCBS provider to facilitate the evaluation of the request and assignment of the appropriate staff member.



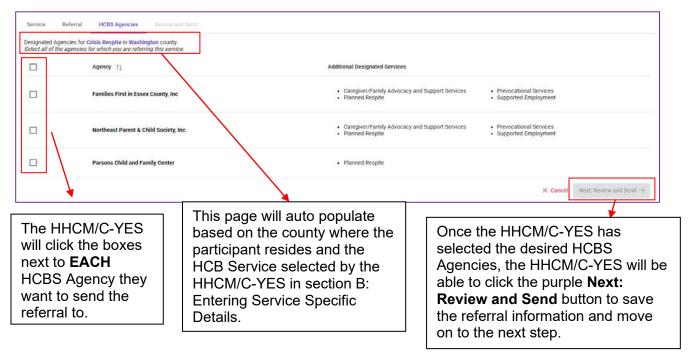
Confirm that all information necessary for an HCBS provider to evaluate the request and assign an appropriate staff member is provided.

No



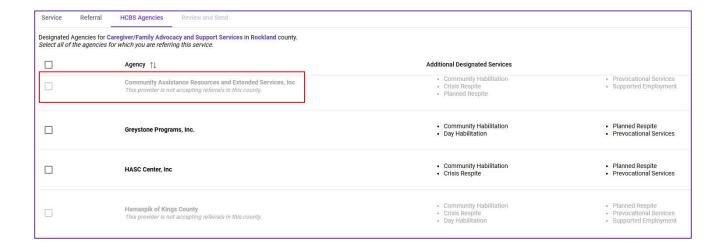
## C. Choosing HCBS Agencies

The HHCM/C-YES will choose HCBS Agencies to receive the referral. Only agencies in good standing who are designated for the requested service in the county where the participant resides will be eligible to receive the referral. If there are no designated providers in good standing in the participant's county of residence, the care manager can place the participant directly on the Statewide Waitlist and the referral will remain open. There is no limit on how many Agencies can be sent the referral within the participant's county.



When the HHCM/C-YES goes to choose an HCBS Agency, they may see some agency names are greyed-out status blocking certain Agencies from selection accompanied by a message reading: "This provider is not accepting referrals in this county." Agencies with this status are not eligible to receive HCBS referrals.

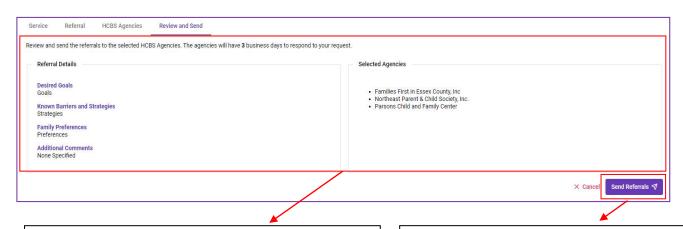
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#### D. Review and Submission

The HHCM/C-YES will confirm the information entered for the referred HCBS is accurate and will send to the selected HCBS Agencies. If an HCBS provider has accepted, the HHCM/C-YES should not change information that would impact service delivery without contacting the accepting provider.

**NOTE:** The HHCM/C-YES **MUST** complete a separate referral for **EACH** HCBS the participant is being referred for.



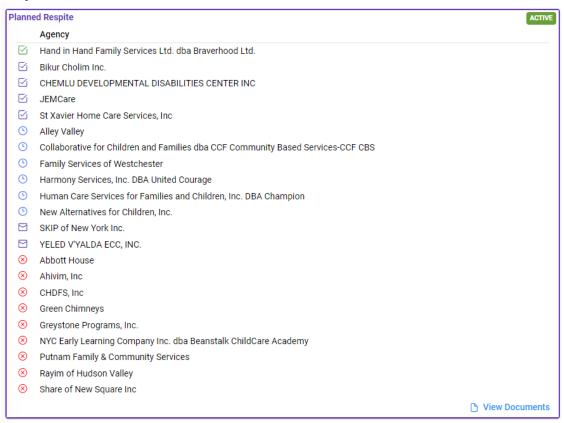
The HHCM/C-YES must ensure that all information in the "Referral Details" box is accurate and pertaining to the specific referral.

If any of the information is incorrect, the HHCM/C-YES can click on one of the tabs above to go back and fix the error.

Once the HHCM/C-YES has confirmed that all information in the Referral Details and Selected Agencies sections is accurate, the HHCM/C-YES will be able to click the purple **Send Referral** button to send the referral to the selected HCBS Agencies.

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An HHCM/C-YES should only send referrals to HCBS agencies that the family has agreed to. The HHCM/C-YES should **not** send the referral to all designated HCBS provider agencies without the permission of the participant/family.



## IV. HCBS Provider Reviews & Responds to a Referral

#### A. HCBS Provider Reviews a Referral

This section shows what an HCBS provider will see once they receive a referral and outlines how they can respond to the referral. The HCBS provider will know they have a referral waiting for them because the Referral and Authorization Portal will send a <u>notification email</u> to the HCBS provider once the HHCM/C-YES clicks **Send Referrals**.

When the HCBS provider enters the Referral and Authorization Portal, they will be presented with the Child Summary page. The Child Summary Page consists of limited viewable information for historical purposes and other circumstances, including participant information such as CIN, DOB, and name.

The HCBS provider will see the following document icon on the HCBS Child Summary Page if they have a document to review. In addition, if the purple box (on the right side of the screen) contains a number greater than zero (0), there is a referral waiting for the HCBS provider's response.



The HCBS providers will than have **seven (7) calendar days** from the date of receipt to respond to the referral.

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The HCBS provider can filter and select records based on their referral status, including "Response Needed" and "Late".

HCBS: ● All Children ○ Response Needed (1) ○ Late (1)

Once a referral is made to an HCBS provider, the HCBS provider will be able to view the Child Case Page and referral information.

- HCBS providers have 7 calendar days to respond to a referral
- The HCBS provider is able to change their response until the care manager selects a provider, the referral is closed, or for 15 calendar days after they respond to a referral
- The HCBS provider has up to 15 calendar days to view the participant record
- The HCBS providers may have a limited time to change the response while the referral is open
- The response is made based upon the information provided in the referral and staffing availability

The care manager may modify an open referral, add HCBS providers, or withdraw the referral from HCBS providers as needed until the referral is closed.

- The referral is open until the care manager either selects an HCBS provider or withdraws the referral
- If the care manager withdraws the referral from all HCBS providers it was referred to, and the referral is not closed, then the participant will be moved to the Statewide Waitlist.
- If the care manager withdraws a referral prior to selecting an HCBS provider, the HCBS provider will see the status as "withdrawn" and will lose access to the participant's HCBS Child Summary page after 15 calendar days

NOTE: If the HHCM/C-YES has selected an HCBS provider, the referral can no longer be withdrawn. If the service is no longer necessary, the participant should be discharged.

The CM should understand the status of the referral and the actions taken by both the CM and the HCBS provider to navigate the withdrawal and/or discharge process effectively.

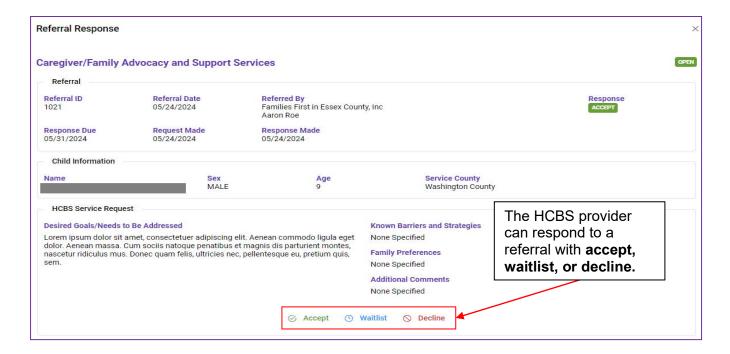
## B. HCBS Provider Responds to a Referral

To respond to the referral, the HCBS provider clicks View Referral



After the HCBS provider clicks **View Referral**, the page below will pop up, and this is where the HCBS provider can review the Child Case Page as well as the referral service that was referred. Once the HCBS provider has reviewed the Child Case Page information and the details of the referred service, they will select "accept," "waitlist," or "decline."

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- **Accept** indicates that the HCBS provider is available to provide the designated service(s) to the participant.
- Waitlist indicates that the HCBS provider is not currently able to provide the designated service(s) to the participant, but they anticipate being able to serve them in the next 90 days.
  - o If the provider selects this option, participant will move to the Agency Waitlist.
  - Agency Waitlist describes a list of participants for whom an HCBS provider indicates they may be able to provide service within 90 days.
- Decline indicates that the HCBS provider cannot and will not be able to provide the requested service(s).
  - If all Providers decline the participant, the participant will move to the Statewide Waitlist.
  - Statewide Waitlist is a list of participants where HCBS providers have indicated that they are currently unable to provide services.

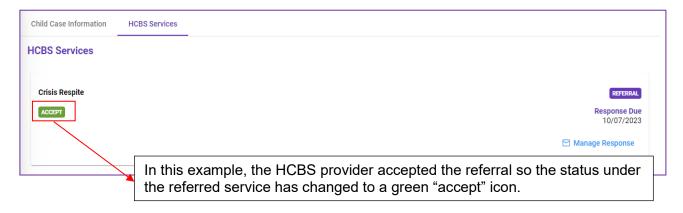
If all available agencies have declined the referral request, the care manager should consider discussing the possibility of expanding the list of agencies to send a referral to with the family.

If an in-network provider is not available, the care manager should consider contacting the MMCP to request assistance in locating an in-network provider, if needed.

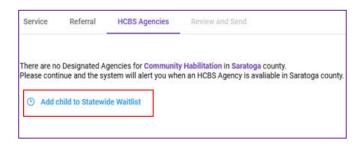
Once the HCBS provider has responded to the referral, the status of the referral on the HCBS Services page will change to reflect that response.



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If all HCBS providers decline or do not respond to the referral within the allotted seven (7) days or the 15-day holding period, the participant will be moved to the Statewide Waitlist overnight following the expiration of all remaining open requests. The participant will **not** be removed from the Statewide Waitlist until the care manager selects an HCBS provider or closes the referral. If there are no providers available for the needed service in the needed county, the CM may add the participant to the Statewide Waitlist.



- If the HCBS provider responded to the referral with "waitlist," the participant can remain on the Agency Waitlist for up to 90 calendar days, unless another applicable action is taken by the care manager.
- If all HCBS providers waitlist the participant, the participant will be on each HCBS provider's respective Agency Waitlist for up to 90 days, unless the Care Manager closes the referral or selects another HCBS provider.

If the HCBS provider has placed the participant on their Agency Waitlist, but another provider who accepted the referral was then selected by the care manager, the participant would automatically come off the HCBS provider's Agency Waitlist.

 Following the selection of the HCBS provider, the provider not selected to deliver the service will be able to see the HCBS Child Summary for up to 15 calendar days.

After being selected by the care manager to provide the services, the HCBS provider will have the ability to download the referral from the system to a PDF format.

**NOTE:** The process to download a PDF version of the referral is explained in the "Care Manager Selects the Agency" section.

# C. Removing a Participant from the Agency Waitlist

To remove a participant from their Agency Waitlist, an HCBS provider will either need to accept or decline the referral. In the case that the provider cannot provide the service, they will need to decline.

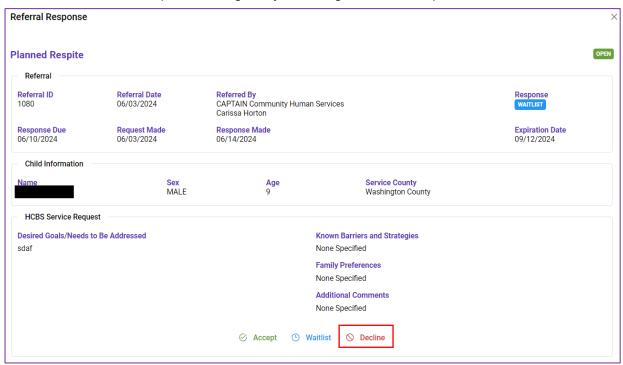
To decline, the HCBS provider will select the participant they wish to remove by clicking on **View Referral**.

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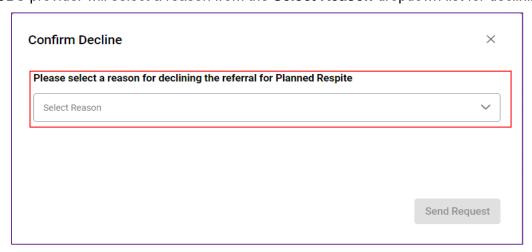


Next, the provider can choose to decline or accept the service.

To decline a referral, the HCBS provider begins by selecting the Decline option.

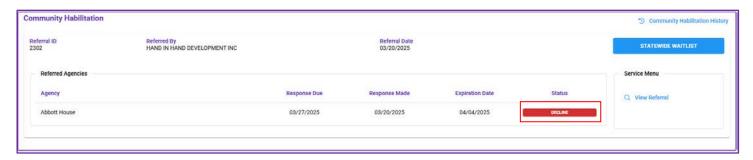


Next, the HCBS provider will select a reason from the **Select Reason** dropdown list for declining the service.



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As a result, the participant's status for the service will change to "Decline," and the participant will have been officially removed from that HCBS provider's Agency Waitlist.



If the participant was on another Agency Waitlist, the participant will remain on that Agency Waitlist. If this was the only Agency Waitlist the participant was on, the participant will be moved to the Statewide Waitlist.

To remove the participant from the Agency Waitlist by accepting the referral, the same process should be followed. Instead of selecting "Decline", the agency will select "Accept" and the HHCM/C-YES will be alerted of the accepted response.

If an HCBS provider has **waitlisted** a participant then another provider is selected to serve the participant, the participant will remain on the waitlisted agency's list for 15 days afterwards with "Not Selected" viewable, as shown below.



If an HCBS provider has **declined** a participant then another provider is selected to serve the participant, the



participant will remain on the waitlisted agency's list for 15 days afterwards with "Not Selected" viewable, as shown below.

## V. HHCM/C-YES Views the Referral Response

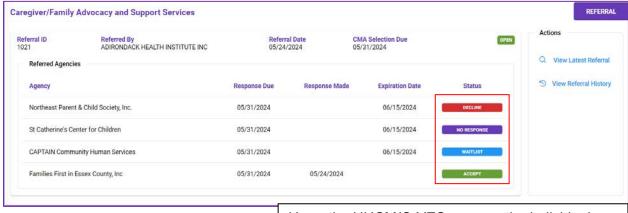
## A. Care Manager Views the HCBS Provider's Response

Once HCBS providers have responded to the referrals, the HHCM/C-YES will be able to view in their next daily digest <u>notification</u> that a decision has been made in the Referral and Authorization Portal. The HHCM/C-YES will enter the Portal to the Child Case Page to view the decisions of each HCBS provider that has responded to the referred service.

To help navigate services efficiently, a color-coded toggle system is utilized:

- BLUE shows waitlisted referrals
- PURPLE shows open referrals
- GREEN shows accepted referrals

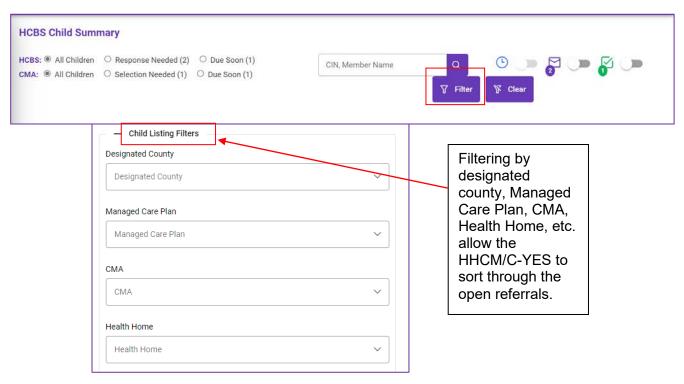
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Here, the HHCM/C-YES can see the individual responses of the HCBS providers to the referral.

The HHCM/C-YES can see the four agencies the referral was sent to and each of their responses. There are three possible responses: decline, waitlist and accept, as well as a status of no response when HCBS providers have not reviewed the referrals or responded.

Care managers and HCBS providers can both utilize toggles and a filter to sort through referrals on their case load.

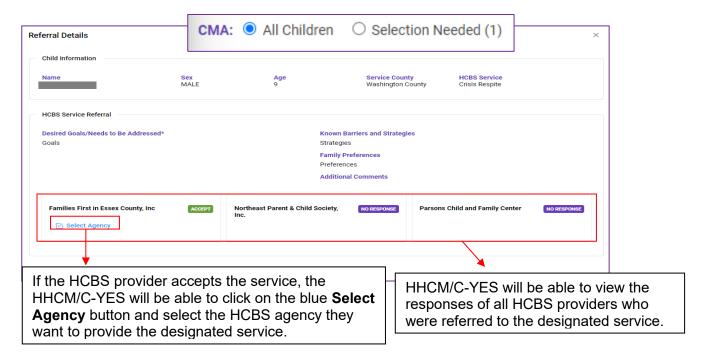


## B. Care Manager Selects the Agency

Once HCBS providers have responded to the referral, the care manager will have seven (7) calendar days to select the HCBS provider they want to provide the referred service(s). The selected HCBS provider will then have ten (10) calendar days from the date of the care manager selection to schedule the first appointment with the participant and their family/guardian. The HCBS provider must be selected by the care manager prior to the HCBS provider contacting the participant/family or beginning services.

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Additionally, the CMA will be able to filter by records that require a selection.



Once the care manager selects the HCBS provider, the service becomes active in the Portal:

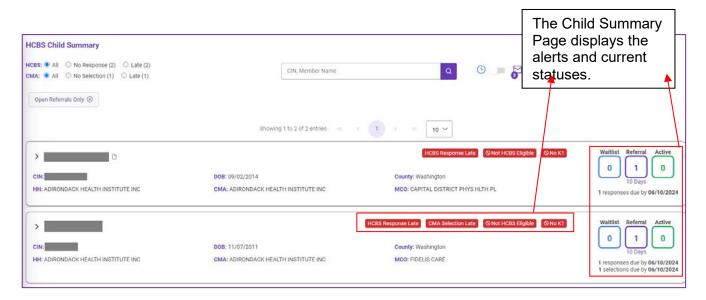


Following selection of an HCBS provider,

- The selected HCBS provider will receive an email alert from the system that they have been selected to provide the service to the participant.
- Referred HCBS providers who declined the referral, cannot change their response, will not get an
  alert, and can see the Child Case Page for 15 calendar days.
- Referred HCBS providers who **did not respond** to the referral, cannot respond to the referral, will not get an alert, and cannot see the Child Case Page.
- Referred HCBS providers who responded with **waitlisted**, cannot change their response, will get an alert, the participant will be removed from their waitlist, however the provider can see the Child Case Page for 15 calendar days.
- Referred HCBS providers who accepted the referral but were not selected, cannot change their response, will receive an alert, and can continue to see the Child Case Page for 15 calendar days.

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An HCBS provider can also view the Child Case Page if they have an active service with the participant or if they have an open, unexpired referral with the participant.



A summary of each referral sent will be available for care managers and HCBS providers – only if they have been selected.

## C. Ongoing Monitoring of Service

For participants who are accepted by an HCBS provider agency, the care manager should have contact with the HCBS provider at least monthly (C-YES/MMCP case manager will have contact with the provider at least quarterly) to discuss updates to services, progress made, and any adjustments needed.

- The HHCM/C-YES/MMCP will update the Plan of Care as needed when there are updates to goals, services, or authorized F/S/D.
- The HHCM/C-YES will maintain regular contact with the participants/family to monitor progress and updates related to HCBS.
- The HHCM/C-YES will schedule interdisciplinary meetings and invite the HCBS provider(s).
- The HHCM/C-YES will make additional referrals for HCBS, withdraw referrals for HCBS, and complete additional HCBS eligibility determinations as needed.

HCBS providers who have been selected to provide the service are expected to provide HCBS in alignment with HCBS definitions and approved F/S/D. HCBS providers should have regular communication with care managers to discuss service status, updates, and progress. HCBS providers must notify HHCM/C-YES and MMCPs of ongoing service delivery.

## VI. Discharge Process

An active service can only be ended by a discharge. A service may be discharged without having an approved authorization if the service was cancelled or satisfied within the initial service period.

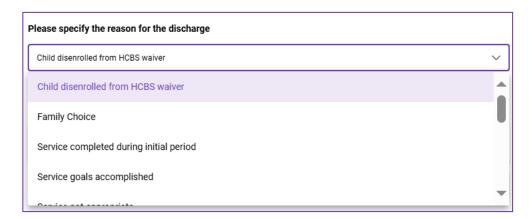
HCBS providers or care managers may discharge a participant from a service by following these steps:

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In the HCBS Services section, find the service that the user wants to discharge the participant from and select **Discharge Child**.

After clicking **Discharge Child**, the user will be prompted to specify a reason for discharge by selecting from the dropdown menu.



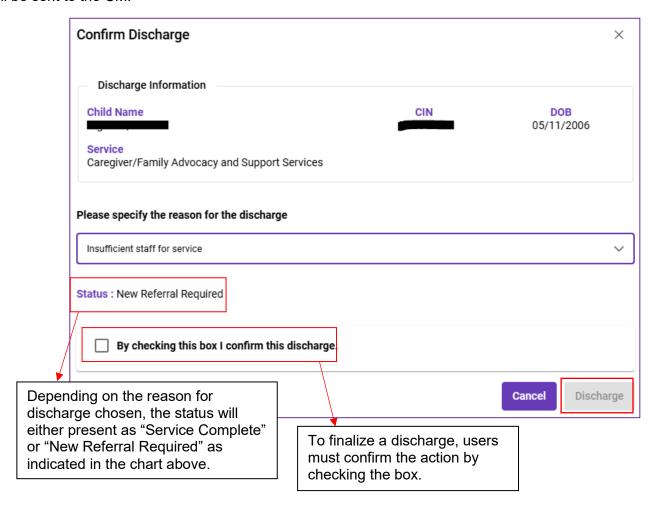
Some discharge reasons will prompt a care manager to submit a new referral for the discharged service. Discharge reasons include:

Discharge Reason	Service Status
Child disenrolled from HCBS Waiver	Service Complete
Family Choice	Service Complete
Service completed during initial period	Service Complete
Service goals accomplished	Service Complete
Service not appropriate	Service Complete
Family requests another provider	New Referral Required
Gender specific staff not available	New Referral Required
Insufficient expertise for service	New Referral Required
No staff with required language	New Referral Required
Provider requested discharge	New Referral Required
Scheduling conflict	New Referral Required
Service not available	New Referral Required
Staff not available for location	New Referral Required
Authorization Denied	New Referral Required

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After selecting the discharge reason, users will confirm the discharge by checking the verification box and pressing the **Discharge** button.

After discharging the participant from the service, users will see that the service status has changed to a gray box reading "Discharged" indicating the service was successfully discharged. An immediate email notification will be sent to the CM.





# A. Viewer & Discharge Permissions

When a participant is discharged from a service,

• The HCBS provider will lose access to the Child Case Page after 15 calendar days but can still see the HCBS Child Summary and original referral within the system.

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• The HCBS provider can always see their own information if they served the participant but will not be able to see updated information for the participant after discharge.

While both care managers and HCBS providers can perform discharges, care managers should handle discharges when the participant disensols from the waiver and HCBS provider should handle discharges when the participant discharges from service(s) or the specific HCBS Agency.

The HHCM/C-YES will be alerted via the Daily Digest if one of their participants was discharged from HCBS service(s) on the previous day.

#### **SECTION 3 – HCBS AUTHORIZATION PROCESS**

#### A. Authorization Introduction

The Referral and Authorization Portal includes functionality to allow creation and management of HCBS authorizations electronically. As of October 21, 2024, **all** authorizations for Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) and Fee-for-Service (FFS) participants **must** be created within the Referral and Authorization Portal. Authorizations submitted on any previous versions of the *Children's HCBS Authorization and Care Manager Notification Form* are no longer permissible. Only Referral and Authorization Portal generated authorizations can be submitted beginning October 21, 2024.

Previous authorizations do not need to be entered into the Referral and Authorization Portal. Referrals created in the Referral and Authorization Portal on or after October 21, 2024, will include a reminder 30 days following selection of the HCBS provider to create an authorization for the service.

Any user with an HCBS provider **Manage Child Referral** role will be able to view, create, and manage an HCBS authorization. Users with the **View Child Referral** role will be able to view HCBS authorizations, only.

The HCBS provider must submit an authorization **at least 14 days prior** to exhausting the initial service period of 60 days/96 units/24 hours or existing service authorization period. Providers should not wait until the initial/existing service amount/period has been exhausted to submit an authorization.

Refer to the following resource for further information: <u>Utilization Management and Other Requirements</u> for 1915(c) Children's Waiver Services.

Once the referral has been sent and the HCBS provider is selected to provide the service, the HCBS provider will schedule a first appointment with the participant. During the initial service period, the HCBS provider **must** meet with the participant to confirm the need for the service and determine how the service will be delivered.

When an HCBS provider is serving a member and another identified need for an HCBS is determined by either the CM or HCBS provider, a **multi-disciplinary** team meeting must occur to determine the need, what HCBS, and the provider to refer to. If the HCBS provider currently working with the member is on referral hold at the time, then the member/family must be educated that they can be referred to another provider for that new service. If the member/family would like all their HCBS with the same provider, then the current HCBS provider and CM will work to transition all HCBS to the new HCBS provider once identified.

#### HCBS providers should not identify new HCBS for the member and dictate the referral from the CM.

Although HCBS providers are not required to submit a request for authorization for services provided during the initial service period, prior to delivering any services, HCBS providers must collect and maintain documentation demonstrating a credible need for those services (i.e., to avoid imminent out-of-home, institutional placements, or to assist the participant to return to their home and community after discharge from an institutional level of care) such as detailed referral information documenting the need for HCBS services. This requires that the HCBS provider independently evaluate a credible need for the service, the goals of the participant, and whether the provider can provide a service that will reach the desired goal; it must also assess

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all other paid and natural support services the participant may be receiving to ensure a lack of duplication.

If the member's needs are met during the initial service period and no additional services are required, then an HCBS Authorization Request is not needed and the participant can be discharged, and the service closed.

Authorizations can **only** be created if the participant has an active K-Code, active Medicaid, and an active service. **Active Services** means a referral has been entered in the Referral and Authorization Portal and an HCBS provider has been selected to provide the services. Participants with a pending Fair Hearing with Aid to Continue are eligible for the authorization process.

Any existing authorization will remain in place until the authorization expires, is canceled, or a reauthorization is entered. A new authorization can be created to establish a new provider, new service, or reauthorize a service. The new authorization will not be active until it has been approved by either the Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MMCP) for MMCP enrollees or Department of Health (the Department) for Fee-for-Service (FFS) participants and finalized in the Referral and Authorization Portal. Authorizations are required for both MMCP and FFS participants. Without proper authorization, submitted claims by HCBS providers may be subject to denial by the MMCP or recoupment from the HCBS provider.

The process of creating an authorization will take the HCBS provider through several tabs within the Referral and Authorization Portal where the HCBS provider must provide relevant information related to the participant and their service. Users will not be able to move forward through the authorization tabs or submit the authorization if information is not entered into all required fields. Details on these tabs can be found below.

- 1. F/S/D
- 2. Goals
- 3. Provider
- 4. Review
- 5. Attachments This is not required for MMCP participants at this time
- 6. Approval

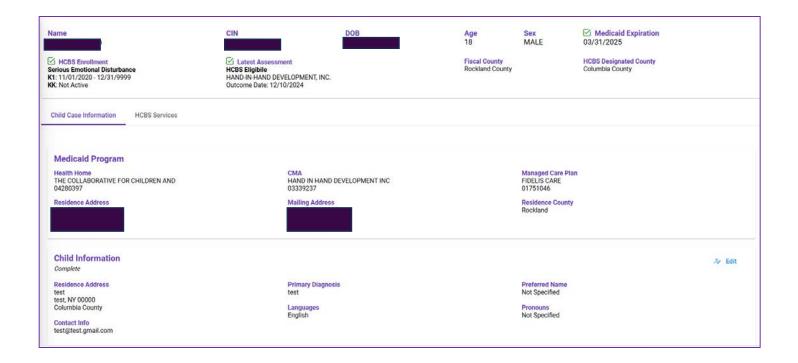
For information on specific topics above, press the Ctrl key and click the topics linked above to jump to the corresponding section of the user guide.

# B. Developing an Authorization

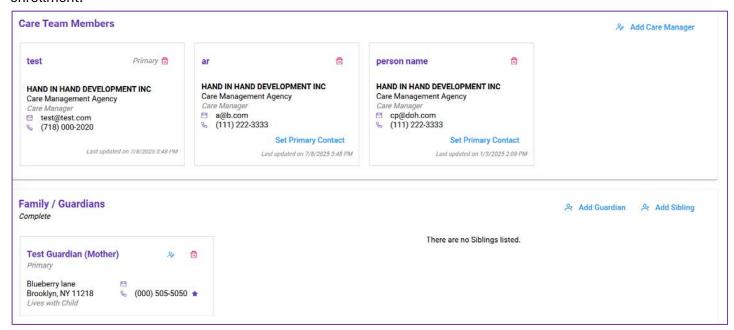
HCBS providers begin on the **Child Case Page** by confirming the presented **Child Case Information** is accurate and up to date. The HCBS provider will be able to see information on the participant's Medicaid Program enrollment, Care Team, Family/Guardians, Schedule/Activities, and Foster Care/Facility, alongside general Child Information.

The Care Manager is responsible for entering and verifying all information contained within the **Child Case Page** at the time of referral. However, it is expected that HCBS providers will verify the information and make necessary updates at the time of authorization/reauthorization as they continue to serve the participant.

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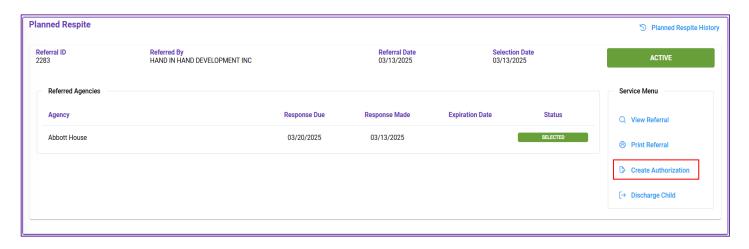


For Care Team Members, users will find contact details (name, phone, email) of the HHCM/C-YES and other team members. This field is required for an authorization request to be submitted. For Family/Guardian Information, users can view details concerning parents/ guardians associated with the participant. This includes names and contact information on who the participant resides with and their respective roles. This also includes the addition of siblings living in the household, along with their status regarding HCBS and Health Home enrollment.



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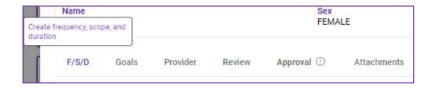
After verifying all information on the **Child Case Information** tab of the **Child Case Page** is accurate, HCBS providers will navigate to the **HCBS Services** tab and click **Create Authorization**.



After clicking **Create Authorization**, a new HCBS Service Authorization box will appear with multiple tabs.

If the participant has multiple active services with one HCBS provider, the HCBS provider will submit authorization information for each service separately. Authorizations can only be built off existing, accepted referrals for active services.

The **F/S/D** (**Frequency**, **Scope**, **Duration**) tab is the first tab of the authorization. On this and all tabs the user can hover over the title of the tab for a brief explanation on the purpose of the tab.

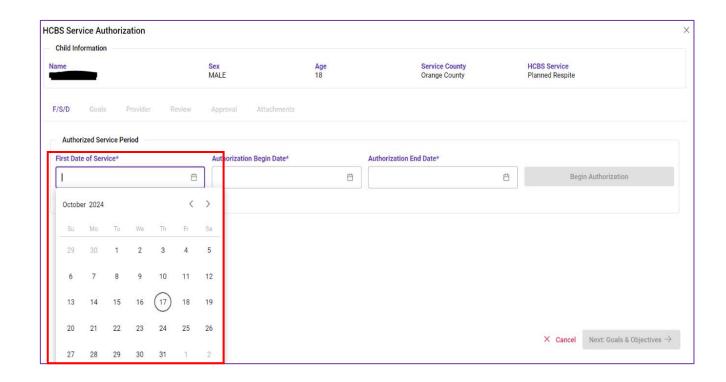


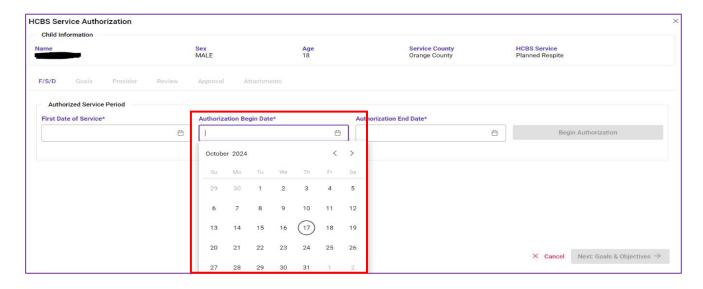
Here, the HCBS provider will enter the First Date of Service, Authorization Begin Date, and Authorization End Date by using the calendar drop-down in each section. **All three fields are required.** The Authorization Period **cannot exceed 6 months.** For reauthorizations, the HCBS provider will need to update the start and end date for the authorization.

**NOTE:** The Referral and Authorization Portal is **NOT** used to notify the Care Manager (HHCM/C-YES) and Medicaid Managed Care Plan (MMCP) of the first appointment date. The requirement to provide this notification within one business day of scheduling the first appointment remains in place. This notification must take place outside of the Referral and Authorization Portal through a secure mechanism agreed upon between the HCBS provider, MMCP, and HHCM/C-YES. HCBS providers are not required to submit notification of first appointment to the Department for FFS participants.

The First Date of Service is the first ever date of service for this HCBS by this provider. The First Date of Service is the start of the Initial Service Period of 60 days/96 units/24 hours.

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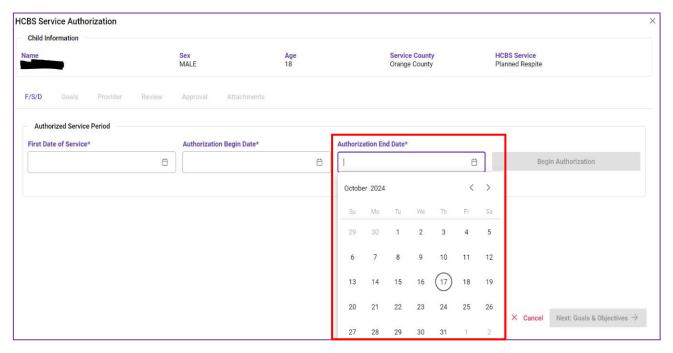




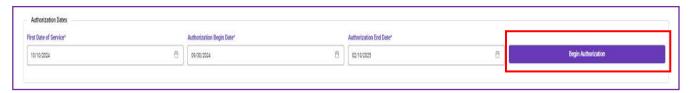
The Authorization Begin Date should reflect the day the authorization period will begin. The Begin Date should be **at least 14 days out** from the day the authorization request is being submitted.

The Authorization End Date should reflect the day the authorization period with end. The Authorization End Date cannot be more than six (6) months from the Authorization Begin Date. Specific objectives for specific service goals can be for a shorter period of time within the Authorization period.

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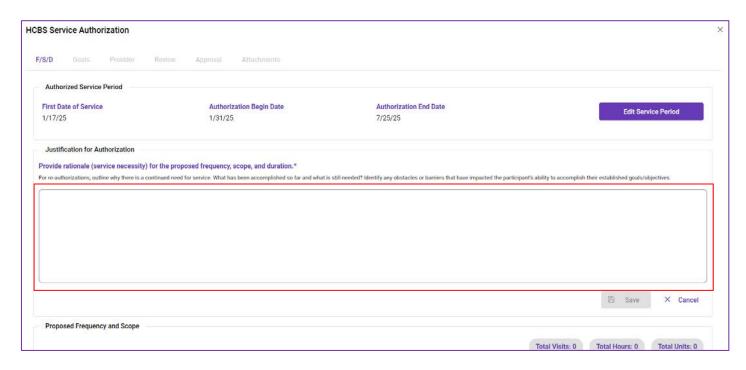
Providers will click **Begin Authorization** once all three fields are completed.



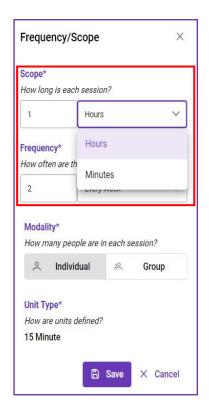
Next, the HCBS provider must enter their desired Frequency and Scope of the service and provide a justification for this request. Justification must be given as a narrative response, thoroughly explaining the necessity of service provision at the requested F/S/D.

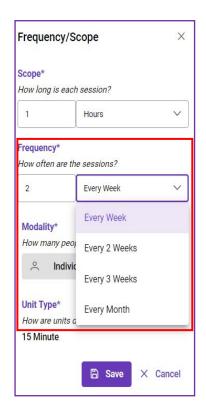
For reauthorizations, the HCBS provider may or may not need to update the F/S/D. Providers should enter justification explaining any changes from the previous authorization request and why the service is still needed. A detailed update on the status of each service goal or objective is listed in the reauthorization request. This update should include an overview of the progress made to date for each objective, as well as details on any ongoing efforts currently in place. If an objective has been met, indicate whether the goal will be closed or if there are additional objectives related to that goal that will continue.

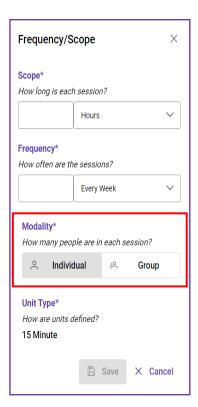
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In the Frequency & Scope box, HCBS providers will specify the Scope (Hours or Minutes), Frequency (Every Week, Every 2 Weeks, Every 3 Weeks, or Every Month), and Modality of the Service (Individual or Group) using the drop-down menus.







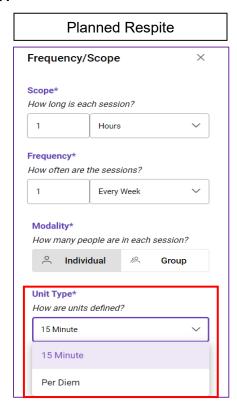
**NOTE**: Caregiver Family Advocacy and Support Services (CFASS) can be provided at Level 1, Level 2, or a mix of both levels. The levels are related to different qualifications of the staff providing the service.

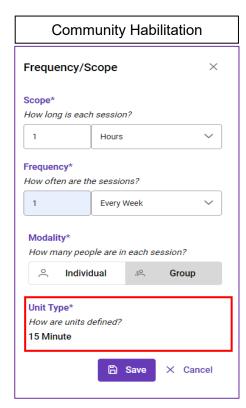
**Authorizations are specific to the service level for CFASS.** When both levels are utilized, each level must July 2025

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be requested individually as its own F/S/D. If a permanent staff change results in a different CFASS level, a new authorization for that service must be completed and submitted to the Plan at least 14 days before filing a claim for the service at a different level than what is currently authorized.

For services with multiple unit types, such as Planned Respite, the **Unit Type** can be adjusted between 15 Minutes or Per Diem. Some services, such as Community Habilitation, do not have multiple units and will not allow the **Unit Type** to be edited.

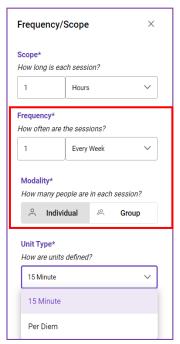




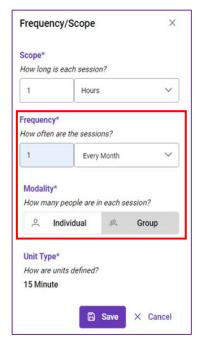
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Providers should enter all applicable F/S/D for each service. If, for example, Individual Respite is provided once a week and Group Respite is provided once a month, each should be entered separately on the authorization.

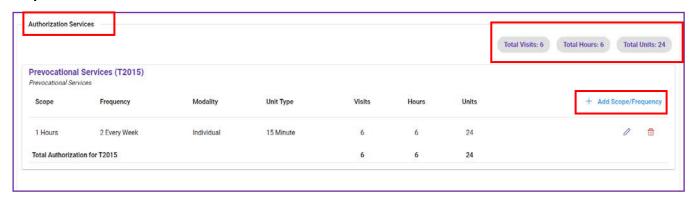
Individual Respite



Group Respite



When the HCBS provider clicks **Save**, the Frequency and Scope will be displayed under the **Authorization Services** section. In the right-hand corner of the box, the number of visits, hours, and total units for the authorization period will be shown. **The HCBS provider cannot move forward until all fields on the tab are completed.** 



The system will calculate the units according to the selected time period, frequency, scope, and unit type. Providers should be aware that their internal calculations may not align with the system, as the system calculates one (1) month as four (4) weeks.

After submitting all required information, the HCBS provider can navigate to the next tab by selecting **NEXT**: **Goals & Objectives.** 

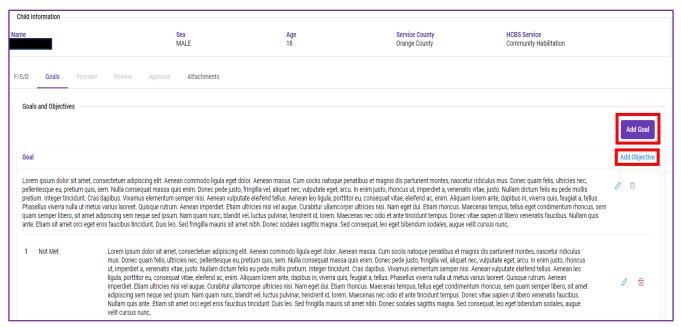
× Cancel

Next: Goals & Objectives →

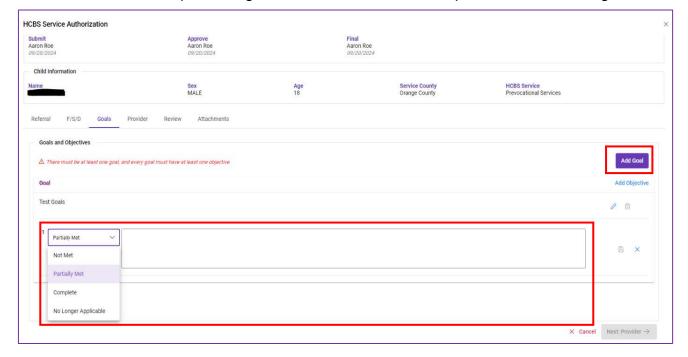
On the **Goals** tab, the HCBS provider can click **Add Goal** and use the drop-down menus to establish the status of each goal. **Each service must have at least one goal. Each goal must be accompanied by at least one objective.** 

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**Goals must be:** Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time bound (SMART). The goals must be specific to the service definition and what is allowable for the service. Goals should have a projected timeframe for completion. Objectives must be specific in how the service will be provided. There may need to be multiple objectives to accomplish one goal, and each objective may have different timeframes based on the specific activities or tasks that will be provided.



The HCBS provider must indicate if each goal was **Not Met**, **Partially Met**, **Complete**, or **No Longer Applicable**. The **Not Met** status indicates that the goal set for the individual has not been achieved. Goals that are newly established should be categorized as **Not Met**. The **No Longer Applicable** status should be used for previous goals that have not been completed but are no longer needed.



The **Partially Met** status indicates that some progress has been made towards the goal, but it has not been fully achieved. The participant may have shown improvement or accomplished some aspects of the goal

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through several objectives, but further work is needed.

The **Complete** status indicates that the goal has been fully achieved. The participant has successfully met the objectives set out in their service plan for this particular goal.

The **No Longer Applicable** status is used when the goal is no longer relevant or appropriate for the participant. This could be due to changes in the participant's circumstances, needs, or preferences.

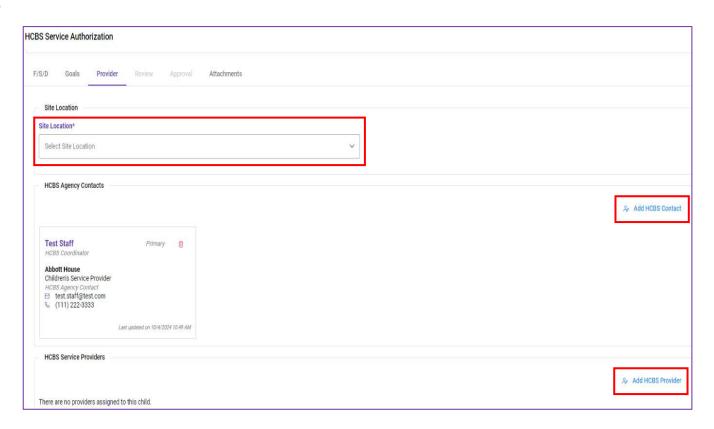
Once goals and objectives are entered, providers must click the **Save** button to proceed.

Once entered into an authorization, goals and objectives will auto-populate into any future authorizations (reauthorizations) that are generated within the Referral and Authorization Portal. Providers will use the Status drop down to show a history of the participant's progression through services. The Provider must provide clear justification for the changes in status of the goals across authorizations.

After entering detailed Goals, the HCBS provider can navigate to the next tab by selecting NEXT: Provider

On the **Provider** tab, the HCBS provider will input Site Location, HCBS Agency Contact, and HCBS Service Provider information.

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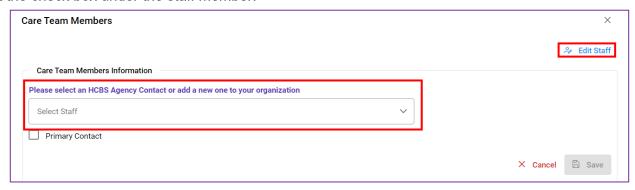


To add an HCBS Agency Contact, click **Add HCBS Contact**. The HCBS Contact should be the point of contact at the agency to answer/address any questions related to the authorization request. This contact does not need to be the individual who provides service.

HCBS Agency Contacts	
	Add HCBS Contact
There are no care team members assigned to this child.	

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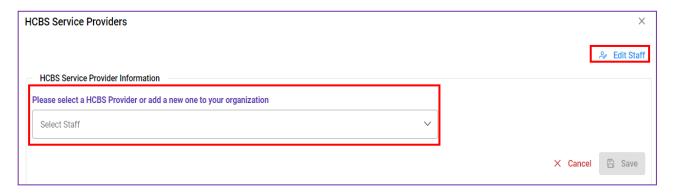
When the HCBS provider clicks **Add HCBS Contact**, the Care Team Members section will appear. Here, the HCBS provider uses the drop-down menu to select an existing staff member or add a new staff member. To add a new staff member, simply type their name in the text box. Providers can enter multiple Agency contacts. At least one contact must be marked as the **Primary Contact** before proceeding. To mark the primary contact, select the check box under the staff member.



To add an HCBS Service Provider (staff who will provide the service), click Add HCBS Provider.



When the HCBS Provider clicks **Add HCBS Provider**, the HCBS Service Provider section will appear. Click the drop-down menu to select an existing staff member or add a new staff member.



# a. Deleting an Authorization

If the decision has been made to delete an authorization, the HCBS provider can select **Permanently Delete Authorization** on the F/S/D tab at any time prior to the authorization being finalized. Only an HCBS provider can delete an authorization. A finalized authorization cannot be deleted.

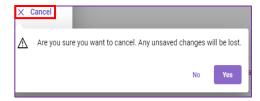


# b. Canceling an Authorization

Any time before the authorization is submitted, the HCBS provider can exit out of the authorization by pressing the **Cancel** button on any page. This will cancel any information that was submitted on the authorization, without saving.

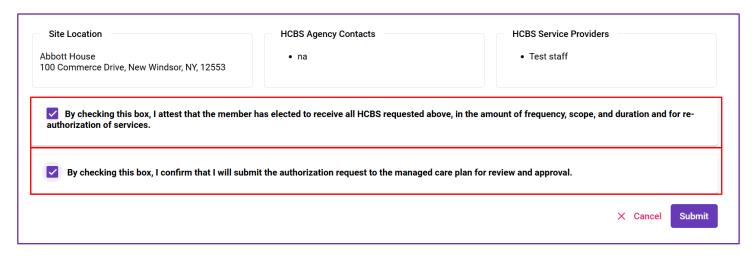
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A finalized authorization cannot be deleted.



# C. Submitting an Authorization

Once provider staff members have been added, the **Review** tab will provide a snapshot of all authorization related information entered by the HCBS provider. The HCBS provider must review the page and then attest to the information before pressing **Submit**. The **Submit** button can only be selected after the HCBS provider clicks both attestations.



After clicking the **Submit** button, the authorization will now have a **Submitted** status. **No further edits to the F/S/D, Goals, or Provider tabs can be made after submitting the authorization.** For FFS authorizations, the Department of Health will receive an alert notifying them that an authorization is ready to review. The Department will enter the Referral and Authorization Portal to review and make a determination about the FFS authorization request.

The HCS ID of the user who submitted the authorization will be displayed in the Portal and on the downloadable PDF.



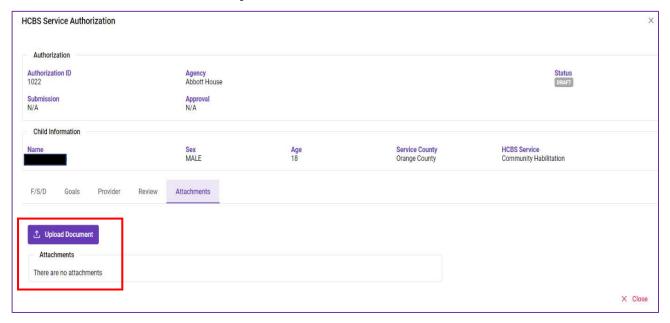
As the HCBS provider attested to before submitting, authorizations for MMCP enrolled participants are required to be sent by the HCBS provider to the MMCP **outside of the Portal** through a secure method agreed upon by the HCBS provider and MMCP.

The last tab of the Authorization is the **Attachments** tab. Currently, uploading attachments is optional for MMCP participants. For FFS participants, HCBS providers will use this tab to upload documentation to support service necessity, as needed.

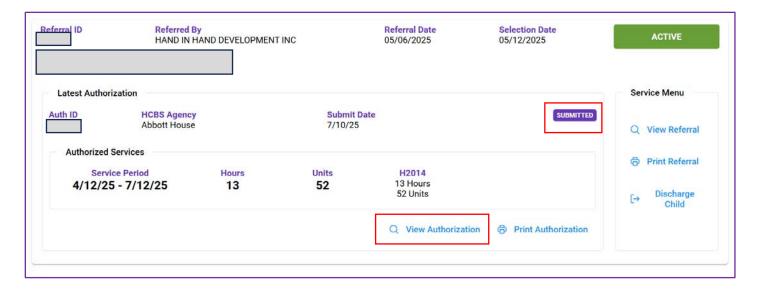
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The **Attachments** tab is used to upload supporting documentation in relation to the participant's service needs. Once documents have been uploaded to this tab, and the authorization has been submitted, the documents will be viewable to the care manager, Health Home, HCBS provider who submitted the authorization request, and Department. Other HCBS providers who serve the participant will not be able to see the uploaded documents.

Once a document is submitted, the system will create a snapshot and save for download. If the document is edited, the original submission will be overwritten with the new upload. **Once the authorization is finalized, no further edits will be allowed to any attachments.** 



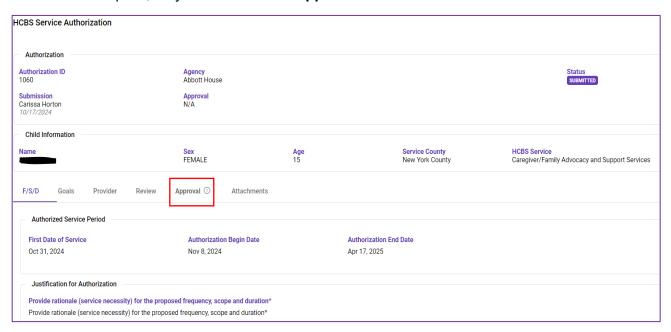
Once the HCBS provider submits the authorization, they can navigate to the Child Case Page, under the HCBS Services tab, within the specific service, and can select **View Authorization**. This will direct the user back to view the authorization they submitted. Here, if the authorization is in **Draft** status, users can make edits to the authorization that was started until it's submitted. Once submitted, only Attachments can be edited. Once the authorization is finalized, no information or attachments associated with the authorization can be edited.



Users will see a Submitted Status along with a tag indicating that the authorization is awaiting approval. Users

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can review the submitted information in each tab of the authorization. Once the provider receives a response to the authorization request, they can move to the **Approval** tab to review/finalize the authorization.

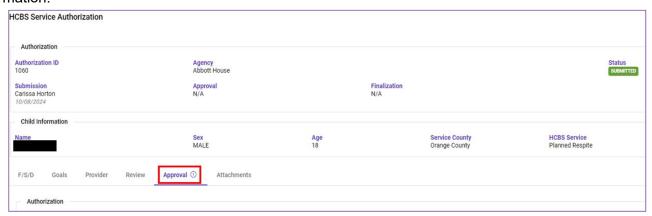


# D. Medicaid Managed Care Plan (MMCP) Responses

Currently, MMCPs only have a view-only role in the Referral and Authorization Portal. All authorizations generated within the Referral and Authorization Portal will need to be downloaded by the HCBS provider and submitted to the MMCP outside of the Portal, through a secure mechanism agreed upon by the MMCP and HCBS provider.

After submitting the authorization to the MMCP and receiving a determination from the MMCP outside of the Referral and Authorization Portal, the HCBS provider will re-enter the Referral and Authorization Portal to input the MMCP's authorization determination on the **Approval** tab.

The ! alert will indicate that the authorization has not been finalized and requires authorization determination information.



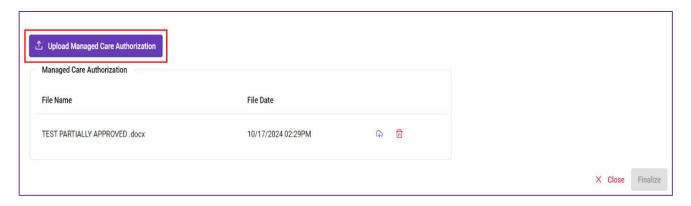
The HCBS provider will **not** have access to the **Approval** tab until they have clicked the **Submit** button on the **Review** tab of the authorization.

On the **Approval** tab, the HCBS provider will need to indicate the authorization determination they received from the MMCP. The HCBS provider will indicate whether the authorization request was Fully Approved, Partially Approved, or Denied. The HCBS provider will need to input the total approved units/hours for each

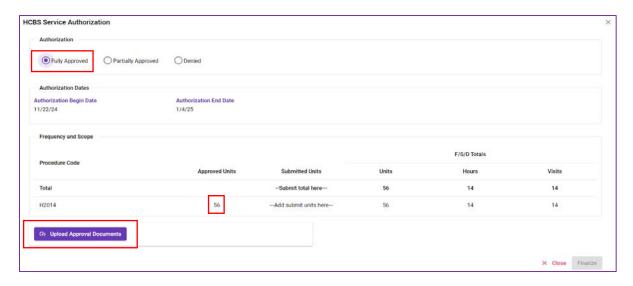
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procedure code requested. If necessary, the HCBS provider will adjust the F/S/D of services to match the MMCP's approval in the text box provided on the Approval tab.

The HCBS provider will upload a copy of the Authorization Determination that they received from the MMCP through the Upload Managed Care Authorization button on the Approval tab. Note: voicemails/voice recordings are not allowable upload types.

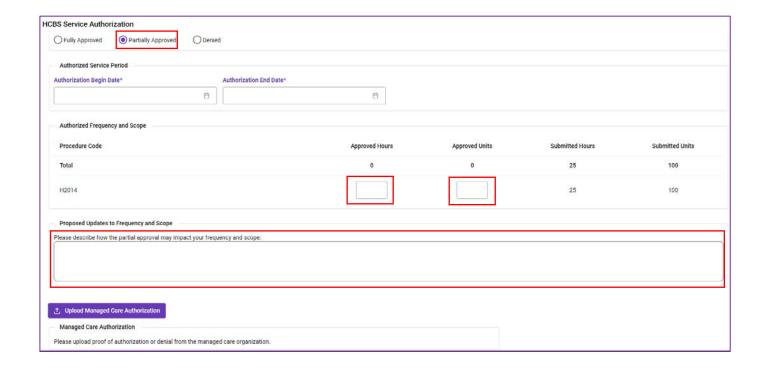


If the **MMCP fully approves the authorization**: The HCBS provider will select **Fully Approved**. The user will not have to manually enter the units, as the Referral and Authorization Portal will automatically populate the quantity of units originally entered by the HCBS provider and submitted to the MMCP, which was approved.



If the MMCP partially approves the authorization: The HCBS provider will select Partially Approved and will need to enter the approved units or hours into the text box provided. If the units that the MMCP approved differ from the HCBS provider requested units, then the HCBS provider will need to update the F/S/D on the Approval tab using the *Please describe how the partial approval may impact your frequency and scope* box. In this box, the HCBS provider will provide an updated F/S/D that aligns with the approved units within the Approval tab.

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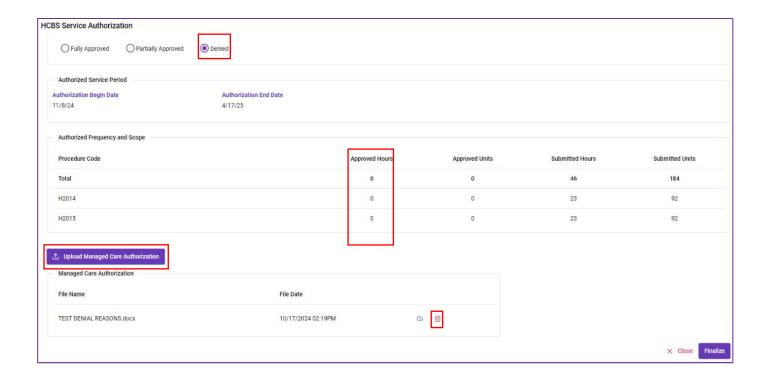


In the case that the MMCP partially approves the authorization, the authorization status will be displayed as 'Partially Approved'.

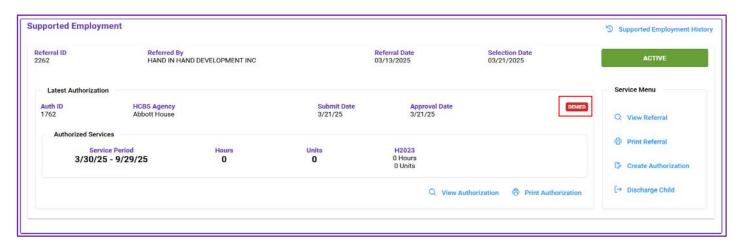


If the MMCP denies the authorization: The HCBS provider will select **Denied** and the system will automatically enter zero (0) units.

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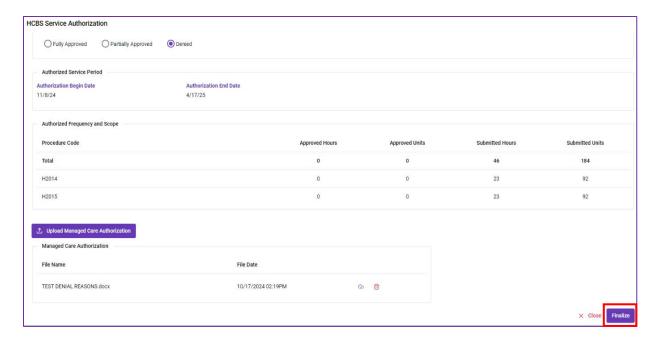


If denied, the denied status will be displayed on the service.



Once authorization determination information is entered into the **Approval** tab, and any adjustments needed to F/S/D are made, the HCBS provider will click the **Finalize** button. Once this button is selected, the authorization cannot be further altered. Once finalized, a notice that a finalized authorization is now available will be included in the next day's HHCM/C-YES Daily Digest.

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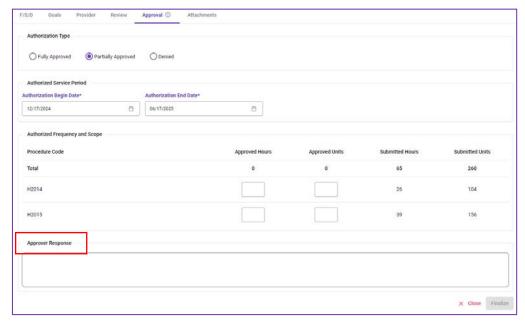
Since this notification will take place through the system, HCBS providers are no longer required to notify the HHCM/C-YES of approved F/S/D for MMCP participants outside of the Portal.

# E. Fee-for-Service (FFS) Responses

For FFS participants, the Department will enter the Referral and Authorization Portal and issue a determination on the authorization request submitted to the Referral and Authorization Portal by the HCBS provider.

Please reference <u>Children's Waiver Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Authorization Policy for Fee-for-Service (FFS) Participants (CW0019)</u> for further information and guidance on FFS authorizations.

The Department will determine the authorization request on the **Approval tab** and determine if the request is approved, partially approved, or denied. The Department will also provide a written explanation justifying the authorization determination within the **Approval tab**.



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When the Department enters a FFS authorization determination in the Referral and Authorization Portal, the HCBS provider will receive a notification alerting them that an authorization determination has been issued. The care manager will also receive information in their next Daily Digest alerting them that an authorization has been finalized. Once the Department enters an authorization determination in the Portal, the authorization is considered finalized. Once the authorization is finalized, the authorization cannot be altered any further.

After receiving notification of the finalized authorization determination, the HCBS provider will re-enter the Portal to review the determination. If the authorization is fully approved or denied, the care manager will be notified by the Portal. The HCBS provider is not required to contact the care manager outside of the Portal to share this information.

If a partial approval is issued, the HCBS provider must contact the care manager outside of the Portal to provide details on the FFS authorization and adjusted F/S/D. The adjusted F/S/D must align with the authorization determination issued by the Department.

The Department may decide that the authorization is missing information or detail and may choose to reach out to the HCBS provider with a request for additional information. The Department reviewer will enter a short justification about missing information and what needs to be entered for a decision to be made. The authorization will be sent back to the provider with a "Request Info" status and the provider will be notified via email that the authorization is missing information and has been returned to draft status. The HCBS provider should **respond** to this request within **2 business days**. If the HCBS provider does not respond within 2 business days, the authorization request may be denied.

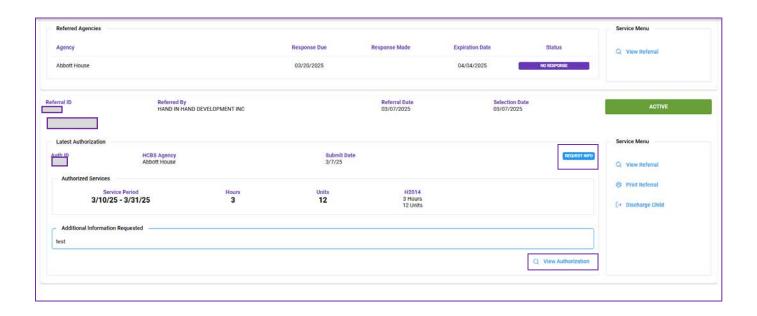
When providers are fulfilling a request for more information, they will be unable to edit the first date of service, or the authorization start and end date but the other fields, including F/S/D, will be editable. Attachments can be added and removed at this time. The HCBS provider will need to submit the authorization back to the Department for their review following the process outlined below.

The provider will see the notification for "Information Requested" in the menu bar.

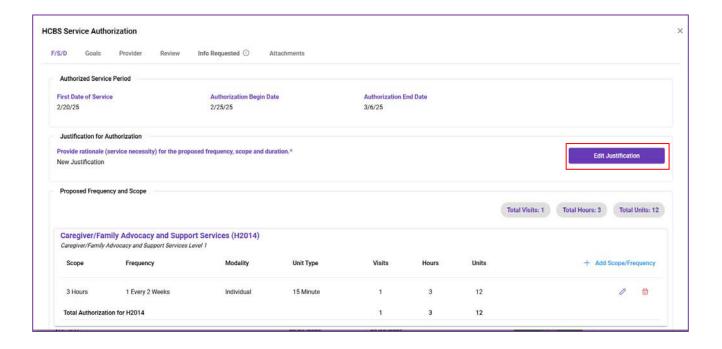
Authori	zation Submissions	
	FFS Submission	
C	FFS Resubmission	
	MCO Submission	
?	Information Requested	
?	Information Request Late	

When HCBS providers go to view their services, they can now see if the Department has requested additional information as it will appear with the specific HCBS authorization request. When additional information is requested the status changes from "Submitted" to "Request Information". The provider can click **View Authorization** to see more details.

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The provider will be able to read the included justification provided by the Department explaining what information is missing from the authorization. Providers can add or edit the F/S/D, Goals, and Provider tabs as needed. Note that while you can change other information during resubmission, you cannot modify the authorization dates.

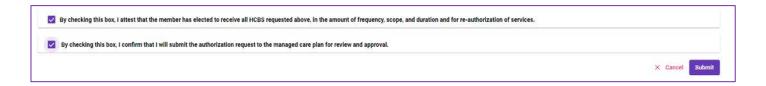


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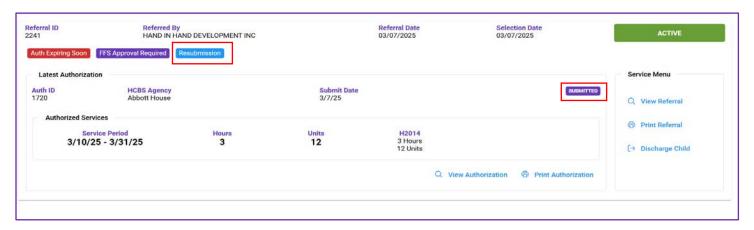
Provide additional detail as requested, such as providing more detail in the justification for services (F/S/D tab), elaborating on goals and objectives (Goals tab), or uploading supporting documents (Attachments tab).



To finalize the submission, navigate back to the Review tab, review all the information carefully, and click on Attestations to submit.



Once the HCBS provider uploads the additional information requested the Status turns back to "Submitted". When additional information is provided and the submission is resubmitted, the tab will disappear and revert back to "Submitted" status. A tag at the top of the page will show the authorization request's status as a "Resubmission."



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# F. Ending Authorizations

An active service can only be ended by a discharge. HCBS providers or care managers can discharge the participant at any time.

Care managers can disenroll participants from the Children's Waiver. When this is done, the care manager will also need to discharge the participants from all the services they are receiving in IRAMS. HCBS providers can discharge participants from a particular service at any time. Once a service is discharged, no further service provision by the previously assigned HCBS provider can take place, even if the authorization remains active.

Not all services will require an authorization request. If a service was canceled, or it was determined that the participant does not require additional services beyond the initial service period, they will be discharged, and no authorization request will be submitted.

The system will notify HCBS providers 14 days prior to an authorization's expiration. If there is a continued need for the service, the HCBS provider should submit a re-authorization request at least 14 days prior to the existing authorization period ending.

#### **SECTION 4 – SYSTEM NOTIFICATIONS**

# A. Daily Digest Emails

HCBS providers and HHCM/C-YES with the Manage Child Referrals role will receive a Daily Digest email, which will contain information on whether referrals are ready to be viewed, if responses to referrals are available, if participants on the Agency Waitlist have expired, and counts showing if a participant was discharged from service. as seen below. HCBS providers and HHCM/C-YES will all receive similar information on their Daily Digest email.

For authorizations, HCBS providers will be able to see any upcoming re-authorizations, which will **appear 21 days before the existing authorization expires**, and initial authorizations where an alert will appear if a participant's file does not have an authorization submitted within 30 days of HCBS provider selection. This information can also be accessed from the system menu bar.

Example of a Daily Digest email sent to HCBS providers, HHCM/C-YES:

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#### **New York State: Incident Reporting and Management System**

**HCBS Referral: Daily Digest** 

Below is the HCBS Referral Summary for Abbott House on 02/20/2025

#### **CMA Selections**

Ready

View Child Due: 02/26/2025

 View Child
 Due: 02/26/2025

 View Child
 Due: 02/26/2025

**Authorizations Expiring Soon** 

View Child Expiring: 03/06/2025

#### **Expired Authorizations**

View Child Expired: 01/31/2025
View Child Expired: 10/31/2024

#### Yesterday's Discharges

Yesterday's Discharges

#### Waitlisted Children

Agency Waitlist 1
Statewide Waitlist 3

• HHCM/C-YES will receive a Daily Digest email which will contain:

- CMA selections available, due within 3 days, or late
- HCBS responses due within 3 days, expiring in 3 days, or late
- Waitlists expiring within 10 days
- Counts of Statewide Waitlist
- Counts of newly discharged participants
- Alerts on Participant Records within the system will include:
  - Late action
  - Action due soon
  - Expiring record

This is an autogenerated email from the IRAMS system.

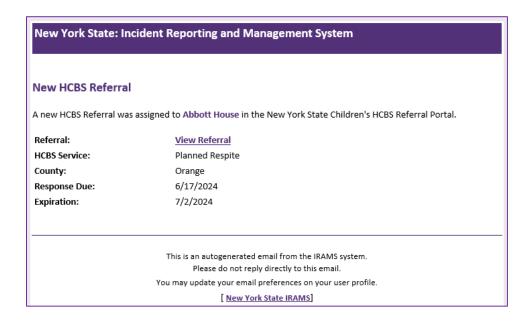
Please do not reply directly to this email.

You may update your email preferences on your user profile.

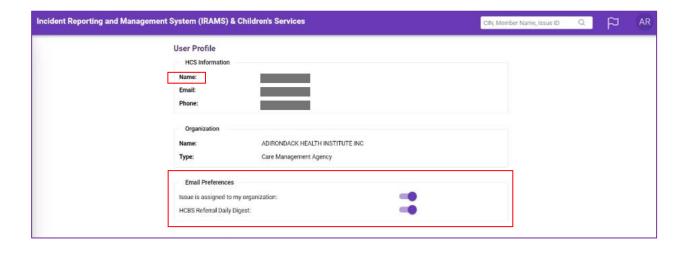
[ New York State IRAMS]

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Other email notifications for HCBS providers include alerts for new referrals, as seen here:



Users will be able to turn their Daily Digest emails off by adjusting the toggle buttons on the User Profile page as shown in the image below:



#### B. Information Requests

For FFS authorizations, if the Department reviewer requests that the HCBS provider adds more information to the authorization request, the HCBS provider will receive the following email:

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### New York State: Incident Reporting and Management System

#### **HCBS Authorization Request For Information**

The reviewer has requested additional information about an authorization request for **Abbott House** in the New York State Children's HCBS Referral and Authorization Portal.

Please visit the IRAMS site and respond to the request within <u>2 business days</u>. If a response is not received, your request may denied.

Authorization: <u>View Authorization</u>
HCBS Service: Community Habilitation

Request Date: 02/27/2025

This is an autogenerated email from the IRAMS system.

Please do not reply directly to this email.

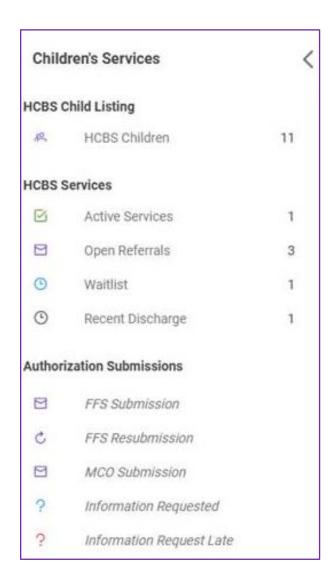
You may update your email preferences on your user profile.

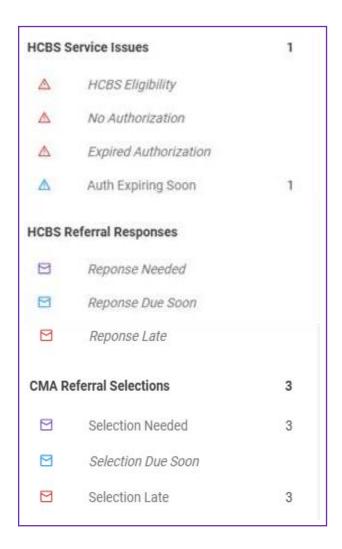
New York State IRAMS

#### C. Menu Alerts

In addition to the Daily Digest, users will be able to see various alerts pertaining to referrals and authorizations via the system menu bar. This menu bar will contain alerts directing the user to points of interest, which are defined in a table below.

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Alert	Definitions
No Authorization	If 30 calendar days or more have passed since the HCBS provider has been
	selected by the care manager to provide the service, an alert will appear here.
	This is a reminder that the active service does not yet have authorization in the
	system
Information Requested	The Department has requested additional information on an authorization
	request; the HCBS provider is required to make any necessary changes and upload additional requested information
Information Requested	Applies to FFS participants where additional information has been requested but
Late	not provided within 2 days of the request
Expired Authorization	If an authorization that was generated within the Portal has expired, and a new
	authorization has not yet been finalized, an alert will appear here. This is a
	reminder that the service cannot continue until a new authorization is obtained. In
	some instances, this might mean that a participant is ready for discharge and a
	new authorization is not needed
Authorization Expiring	If an active service with an authorization will expire within 21 calendar days, an
Soon	alert will appear here. This is a reminder to submit a re-authorization, if
FFO 4	appropriate or plan for discharge
FFS Approval	If there are service authorizations for FFS participants submitted to the
FFS Resubmission	Department and awaiting a determination, an alert will appear here  If there are service authorizations for FFS participants resubmitted to the
FFS Resubilission	Department after a request for more information and awaiting a determination,
	this alert will be shown
MCO Approval	If there are service authorizations for MMCP participants in a "submit" status,
	awaiting a determination from the MMCP outside of the Portal, an alert will
	appear here, for the MMCP determination to be entered
Response Needed	Action is required from the HCBS provider regarding a referral. This indicates that
•	a response is needed to accept, decline, or waitlist the referral
Response Due Soon	The due date for an HCBS provider to respond to a referral request is
-	approaching
Response Late	The HCBS provider has not provided a response to the referral within the 7-day
	timeframe
Selection Needed	The HHCM/C-YES needs to select an HCBS provider from those who have
	accepted the referral
Selection Due Soon	The deadline for the HHCM/C-YES to select an HCBS provider is approaching
Selection Late	The HHCM/C-YES has not selected an HCBS provider within the required 7-day
	timeframe after the provider has accepted the referral
Recent Discharge	Participants with an HCBS service discharge within the past 7 days

# **Appendix**

#### **Technical Assistance** A.

I. Health Commerce System (HCS)

If you are having trouble with your Health Commerce System (HCS) password, multi-factor authentication, or if you get locked out or your account, please contact Commerce Account Management Unit (CAMU) at camusupp@health.ny.gov

**NOTE:** This is **NOT** a helpline, it is a technical support service.

How to create an HCS Account:

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# health.ny.gov/professionals/office-based surgery/docs/hcs account paperless app process.pdf

Reach out to your agency's HCS coordinator to create an HCS account for you.

NOTE: You must log into HCS once your account is created to activate

#### II. IRAMS

You can access IRAMS with this link: <u>increp.health.ny.gov</u>

# III. Provider Support

Behavioral Health Mailbox: <u>BH.Transition@health.ny.gov</u>

## B. Referral Definitions & Statuses

#### **Definitions of Relevant Terms**

Term	Definition	
Active Service	A referral has been entered in the Referral and Authorization Portal and an HCBS	
Active Service	provider has been selected to provide the services.	
Agency	Pertains to HCBS providers who will respond to referrals and provide services for	
Agency	participants when appropriate.	
Agency Waitlist	A list of participants for whom an HCBS provider indicates they may be able to provide	
Agency Waltist	service in the next 90 days. The HCBS provider must monitor this waitlist.	
Authorization	Approval given (either from a MMCP or the Department) to HCBS providers to deliver	
Addionzation	billable services to participants at a specified Frequency, Scope, and Duration.	
Authorization Begin Date	Reflects the day an authorization period will start. This date must be at least 14 days from	
AdditionZation Begin Bate	the date of authorization request submission.	
	Reflects the day an authorization period will end. This date cannot be more than 6 months	
Authorization End Date	from the day the Authorization Begin Date. Specific objectives for service goals can last	
	for a shorter period of time within the authorization.	
Care Manager (CM)	Pertains to Health Home Care Managers/Children and Youth Employment Services	
Sare Manager (SW)	(HHCM/C-YES) who are responsible for creating and managing referrals.	
	Page containing Protected Health Information (PHI) and full referral information for the	
Child Case Page	participants. Care managers (CM) and providers (referred to and/or serving the	
	participant) can view and edit information.	
	The First Date of Service is the first ever date of service for this HCBS by this provider.	
First Date of Service	The First Date of Service is the start of the Initial Service Period or 60 days/96 units/24	
	hours.	
	Summary page of participant information including Client Identification Number (CIN),	
HCBS Child Summary	Date of Birth (DOB), and name, limited information viewable for historical purposes and in	
	other circumstances.	
Referral	Request sent from care managers to HCBS providers, for the HCBS provider to	
	determine whether they can serve the participant's needs.	
Statewide Waitlist	A list of participants where HCBS providers have indicated that they are currently unable	
State Mide Walthot	to provide services. Care Management Agencies (CMA) must monitor this waitlist.	

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# Referral and Authorization Portal Statuses

Туре	Status	Description	Creating Org
	REFERRAL	The service is in the referral process	CM
HCBS Service	ACTIVE	A provider was selected from a referral	CM
	AGENCY WAITLIST	No HCBS provider accepted a referral, and at least one provider responded with Agency Waitlist	System
HODO GELVICE	STATEWIDE WAITLIST	All HCBS provider responses to the referral were declined or there are no designated providers in the county	
	DISCHARGED	An HCBS provider or CM discharged the participant from the service	
Referral	OPEN	There is an active referral where the participant is waiting for:  1. An HCBS provider to respond to the referral,  2. The CM to select a provider, or  3. The participant is on a Statewide or Agency Waitlist	СМ
	CLOSED	An HCBS provider was selected, or the CM closed the referral with a selected reason	СМ
	NO RESPONSE	The HCBS provider(s) has not responded to the referral	System
	WITHDRAWN	The CM withdrew the referral from a provider(s)	CM
	ACCEPT	The HCBS provider(s) accepted the referral	HCBS
Referral Responses	WAITLIST	The HCBS provider(s) added the participant to their Agency Waitlist	HCBS
-	DECLINE	The HCBS provider(s) declined the referral	HCBS
	SELECTED	The HCBS provider accepted the referral, and the CM selected the HCBS provider	System
	DRAFT	The authorization has been started by has not been submitted or finalized. Edits can be made to all sections of the authorization.  A draft authorization can be permanently deleted.	HCBS
	SUBMITTED	The authorization has been submitted, no further updates can be made to the F/S/D, Goals, or Provider tab of the authorization, once submitted. Attachments may be added to the authorization in this status. For MMCPs, the HCBS provider will send the authorization request in submitted status outside of the Portal. For FFS, the Department will review the authorization request within the Portal once in submitted status. A submitted authorization can be permanently deleted if no longer needed.	HCBS
Authorization	FINALIZED	A determination on the authorization has been made and recorded in the Portal. The authorization is complete and no further edits to any tabs of the authorization can be made. Depending on the authorization determination, a finalized authorization will appear as one of the following status:  Approved – All requested hours/units contained within the submitted authorization request have been authorized.  Partially Approved – Some, but not all of the requested service hours/units contained within the submitted authorization request have been authorized. The HCBS provider will adjust the dates and/or hours/units to match the approved F/S/D.  Denied – The submitted authorization has been denied.  The authorization cannot be deleted once finalized.	HCBS

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# Referral and Authorization Portal Icons

Alert Icon	Alert Title	Alert Meaning
CMA Selection Late	CMA Selection Late	The care manager is late to select an
○ Not HCBS Eligible	Not HCBS Eligible	HCBS provider to serve a referral  A participant is not eligible for HCBS
⊗ No K1	No K1	A participant does not have a K1 code
Auth Expiring Soon	Authorization Expiring Soon	The authorization is nearing its expiration date
S Enrollment Issue	Enrollment Issue	Issues or complications that may arise during the registration process for HCBS include pending documentation, incomplete applications, eligibility verification requirements, and delays in level of care determinations
	Expired Authorization	When the previously approved period for receiving specific HCBS has ended, requiring renewal or re-assessment to continue services
⚠ No Authorization	No Authorization	If 30 calendar days or more has passed since the HCBS provider has been selected by the CM to provide the service; this is a reminder that the active service does not yet have an authorization in the system.
( Recent Discharge	Recent Discharge	If a participant has been discharged from an HCBS in the past 7 (seven) days
HCBS Response Due Soon	HCBS Response Due Soon	The due date for an HCBS provider to respond to a referral request is approaching
☑ MCO Approval Req'd  MCO Approval Required	MCO Approval Required	Approval from the Managed Care Organization (MCO) is necessary
FFS Approval Req'd  FFS Approval Required	FFS Approval Required	Approval from the Department is necessary for FFS participants
? Info Request	Request Information	The Department has requested additional information on an authorization request; the HCBS provider is required to make any necessary changes and upload additional requested information
Resubmission  Resubmission	Resubmission	Indicates that an authorization has been resubmitted following a request for additional information
	Documents Available	Supporting documentation is available to view
0	Edit	Information in the indicated location can be added to or edited

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Θ	Not Eligible	The participant does not meet the necessary criteria for the specified item and is not eligible for HCBS referral and/or authorization
$\subseteq$	Eligible	The participant meets the required criteria for the specified item
<b>(</b>	Download File	File is available for download
回	Remove File/Information	File/information is available to remove
A	Print	Print/download a referral or authorization

# C. HCBS Authorization to Unit Conversion Chart.

The below chart outlines how the system calculates Total Requested Hours/Units, based on the entered F/S/D:

Description	Calculation Made by System	Example	How it works
Total Days	End date – Start Date	1/1/2025-06/30/2025= <b>181</b>	Total Days of the
		days	authorization period
Total Weeks	Convert days to weeks.	181/7= 25.8 <b>→ 26</b>	Weeks = Ceiling [(End date
			– Start Date) / 7]
		(Rounded to 26 weeks)	
			(Round up using ceiling)
Intervals	Determine Interval Fit	Scope= Every 2 weeks	Scope fit into the number of
		26/2 = <b>13 intervals</b>	weeks
			(Scope = every 2 weeks)
			Weeks / Scope (in weeks)
			ireana, coope ( ireana)
Total Visits	Calculate visits	4 visits every 2 weeks: 4 x	Frequency x # of Intervals
	(Multiply by frequency per	13 = <b>52 visits</b>	
	interval)		(Use next whole number if
			it is a decimal value)
Total Hours	Calculate Total Hours	30- minute sessions: 52 x	Visits x Session duration
		0.5 = <b>26 hours</b>	(in hours)
	(Convert visits to total hours)		
Total Units	Convert to Units	1 unit = 15 minutes →	Number of Hours / Unit
	(Convert hours to units)	(26 x 60) /15= <b>104 units</b>	length (15 minutes)
			(1)
			(Units = Hours x 60 / Unit
			Length)

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