



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of HEALTH SERVICES

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[Home](#) > Family Care and IRIS Programs to Expand Statewide

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Eliminates wait list for hundreds of people seeking long-term care services

MADISON – Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Interim Secretary Tom Engels today announced plans to offer Family Care and Include Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) programs statewide by the first quarter of 2018. Governor Scott Walker called for the statewide expansion in his 2015-2017 state budget. This expansion covers the final seven of Wisconsin’s 72 counties.

“By offering these programs statewide, and eliminating the wait list, we are ensuring our state’s most vulnerable citizens have access to high quality services,” Interim Secretary Engels said. “The Family Care and IRIS programs offer people the support they need to remain in their homes, where they prefer to be, as opposed to the more costly nursing home option. This expansion means members all across the state can take advantage of services that offer dignity and independence, and allow them to make their own care decisions.”

Family Care and IRIS will expand to Adams, Florence, Forest, Oneida, Taylor, and Vilas counties beginning the third quarter of 2017. Family Care and IRIS will be expanded to Dane County during the first quarter of 2018. The transition will eliminate the wait list of more than 500 adults in counties currently served by Medicaid legacy waivers.

DHS will work with the expanding counties, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, IRIS Consulting Agencies and Managed Care Organizations to ensure a smooth and successful transition for the nearly 3,000 people currently receiving care under legacy waivers.

Relative to legacy waivers, the Family Care and IRIS programs have proven to offer quality services, and also be more cost effective. Under legacy waivers, the approximate Medicaid cost to serve an individual is \$3,900 per member, per month. The average Medicaid cost to serve a member in Family Care is \$3,340 per member, per month, for a savings of \$550 per member, per month.

The Family Care and IRIS programs provide long-term care to frail elders, and adults with intellectual and physical disabilities, fostering independence and improving quality of life while recognizing the need for support and the desire to self-direct long-term care services.

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