



**Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities**

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

HCANJ may be Inadvertently Damaging the Advocacy Efforts of the I/DD Population

We call on them to be more specific in their advocacy

In NJ, HCBS Waiver services are categorized as Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) for aging adults and the Support Program and Community Care Program (CCP/SP) for individual adults with I/DD in addition to some services in children's mental health. HCBS is a generic term that refers to a broad category of health care social supports intended to afford individuals who meet the institutional level of care the opportunity to live in the community.

We are unsure whether the use of the generic term HCBS in HCANJ's, *A More Balanced Approach to Long Term Care Funding* includes all HCBS categories or just MLTSS. Since no distinction is made, readers may presume an intent to include in the argument, the Medicaid-funded services provided to the I/DD population.

Juxtaposing Nursing Home funding with that of SP/CCP is a false equivalency. Since the launch of CCP/SP in 2015, IDD providers have had to ramp up support and services, which includes the building and retrofitting of homes in the community, for individuals being discharged from the Developmental Centers. Housing and service demand continues at such a pace that it remains a challenge for the State to provide enough in the way of resources to keep up. Compare this to nursing homes, which have been a standard form of care for decades and for which the number of beds is capped and regulated through the Certificate of Need process. In addition, the option for aging adults to receive services in the community through MLTSS has arguably impacted demand for nursing home care.¹ Comparing the CCP/SP growth industry with the mature nursing home industry is unfair, illogical, and practically meaningless.

If the author's intent was to compare services available to the aging population, nursing home versus MLTSS, then they should have used the specific MLTSS, rather than the generic HCBS. Instead, the document reads like they are waging war on a sister system. Though we do not believe this is the case, there is potential damage to the advocacy efforts on behalf of the I/DD population. We regret that they were not more careful with their use of the terminology and call on HCANJ to be more specific in their advocacy.

Nursing homes are a federally mandated Medicaid service. HCBS is an optional federal service. The State of New Jersey intentionally shifted the balance of services to HCBS. With the passage of federal HR1 and possible cuts to Medicaid, many states are considering cuts to optional services like HCBS. We laud Governor Sherrill and her Administration for their continued commitment to supporting and expanding the opportunity for individuals with IDD to live and thrive in the community through the HCBS CCP/SP Waiver, as evidence by the proposed FY 27 Budget.

June 26, 2026

¹ In 2014 approximately 29% of eligible seniors and people with disabilities (excluding the IDD population) were receiving HCBS services; 71% were in nursing homes. Today, at least 65% of eligible seniors and people with disabilities (excluding people with IDD) are receiving HCBS services. This is information from a former DHS executive.