



## Military Community and Family Policy Fact Sheet

### Data



*As of Jan. 14, 2016, twelve states have made policy changes or similar movement toward resolving this issue.*

### Additional information

#### USA4 Military Families

<http://www.usa4militaryfamilies.dod.mil>

#### Medicaid.gov

<http://medicaid.gov>

#### Exceptional Family Member Program/ Special Needs

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/family-and-relationships/special-needs>

## Medicaid Waivers for Families With Special Needs

### Background

States can offer waivers to children and adults in order to receive health care services through Medicaid in their own home or community. The home and community-based services waivers provide service members and their families with special needs services above and beyond benefits typically provided by TRICARE when service members separate or retire from the military.

During those critical transition periods, individual state Medicaid-eligibility requirements and lengthy waiting lists can hinder military families from obtaining supplemental financial support. The mobility of military life — with families moving every two to three years — can make the waiting periods even more problematic.

### Highlights

The Department of Defense initiative USA4 Military Families engages state policymakers and other state leaders to address state-level challenges impacting the quality of life of military families. One key issue of the initiative is to allow service members to receive the home and community-based services waivers even when transitioning out of the military.

- Enrollment for waivers in the service member's resident state would allow the family members to progress along with other state citizens until they become eligible to receive the benefits.
- Eligibility status would be retained as long as the service member maintains the state as his or her legal residency and returns to the state after transitioning out of the military.

The Department of Defense is educating state policymakers on the need to allow military families with special needs to enroll in Medicaid waiver programs while on active duty so that Medicaid support will be available without an extended waiting period after separating or retiring from the military.

