



## Frequently Asked Questions

*How is the HCBS Waiver Program paid for?*

The program is paid for by Federal and State Medicaid, however, only the child's income is considered on the Medicaid application. The parental income is "waived."

*How are youth referred to the HCBS Waiver Program?*

The Single Point of Accountability (SPOA) Committee in each county matches youth to the appropriate level of care, including recommending a screening for the HCBS Waiver.

*What counties are served by the HCBS Waiver Program through Pathways, Inc.?*

The program is available through Pathways, Inc. in Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, and Yates Counties.

## Home and Community-Based Services Waiver

### Contact Corning Office

Serving Chemung, Steuben,  
Tioga, and Tompkins Counties

Dianne Smith, CASAC, LMSW

#### **HCBS Waiver Program Director**

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### Contact Geneva Office

Serving Ontario, Schuyler,  
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Dianne Smith, CASAC, LMSW

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*Office of Mental Health*

## HOME AND COMMUNITY- BASED SERVICES WAIVER

*"Pathways provides children, adults, and families with specialized programs and services in developmental disabilities, mental health, family support, traumatic brain injury, and child care. We hold ourselves accountable for meeting the expressed needs of those we support and for offering them meaningful opportunities to develop their own capabilities."*



## Home and Community-Based Services Waiver

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver is a strength-based program that serves youth ages 5-18 years with serious emotional difficulties. The program is certified through the New York State Office of Mental Health and provides services and supports to families to prevent out of home placement for their child. Enrollment in the program is voluntary and no fees are charged to the family. Staff meet with the family/youth in their home or other locations chosen by the family.

Families choose supports and services that meet their unique needs which may include:

### Individualized Care Coordination

The Individualized Care Coordinator (ICC) is responsible for intake, screening, and assessment of needs and works in partnership with the family and youth to develop a service plan and coordinate all Waiver services the family selects. The ICC maintains contact with the child's support system including mental health providers and school staff. The ICC is available to participate in meetings at school or in the community that address concerns about the youth.

## Crisis Response Services

An ICC is available to respond to crisis situations 24 hours per day, seven days per week wherever necessary, including in school, at home, or in the community. The ICC assesses each crisis and provides or obtains the needed level of support. To prevent crises from occurring, the ICC works with the family to develop a crisis/safety plan.

### Intensive In-Home Services

These services provide intensive interventions in the home when a crisis response service is not enough. The ICC and family engage in a debrief meeting after a crisis and work to prevent additional crises. Intensive In-Home Services may also include enhancing communication and problem-solving skills.

### Parent Advocate

The Parent Advocate has the shared experience of raising a child with emotional challenges and can provide both a realistic and hope-filled perspective. The Parent Advocate strives to empower parents by providing an opportunity to vent and problem solve, by locating community resources, and by teaching advocacy skills.

## Family Support Services

Family support services are activities designed to improve the child's ability to function as part of a family and to increase the family's ability to care for the child at home and in community settings.

### Respite Care

Respite care provides the family with a much needed break to ease the stress at home. Respite may be provided hourly or overnight and may be planned or on an emergency basis. A respite staff member provides supervision and participates with the child in recreational activities at home or in the community.

### Skill Building Services

These services provide the youth an opportunity to increase competency in areas such as communication and social interaction with peers and adults and to function more successfully in community environments.

