

MA Integrated Community Supports

Integrated Community Supports is a Medical Assistance (MA) service. Minnesota began offering Integrated Community Supports (ICS) as a service option for Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) and Brain Injury (BI) waivers in 2021, and for Developmental Disabilities (DD) and Community Alternative Care (CAC) waivers in 2023. As of late August, there are 260 ICS providers and 487 approved ICS settings, covering 2,850 individual ICS units. Below is a more detailed explanation of the program and its benefits.

How it works

ICS fills a gap in the service continuum between a person living in their own home and more restrictive settings such as group homes and assisted living. DHS and the legislature are moving away from assisted living models which were geared for older adult populations and don't offer as much client choice in how or if they receive services.

ICS provides support and training to adults (18+) with disabilities living in apartment settings in the community. It's only available to people who get services through disability waivers. Once approved for waiver services, a person can choose to have ICS. They must live in an approved provider-controlled setting – usually an apartment. Support and training are provided to meet a person's assessed needs and goals in at least one of the following areas:

- Community participation
- Health, safety and wellness
- Household management
- Adaptive skills

Providers need a valid Home and Community Based Services (245D) license, as well as approval to provide ICS in a specific setting. Providers must be available to respond to the needs of individuals in the ICS setting 24 hours a day, but don't have to have round-the-clock staffing. And, ICS has lower annual per person costs than other residential services.

DHS Review Process

DHS reviews overall ICS capacity by county every quarter to determine which counties have the greatest need. DHS prioritizes site-specific reviews of provider applications from counties that lack the necessary capacity of ICS services and then applications are processed in the order they are received.