



TENNESSEE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Understanding ICF in Tennessee

This educational brief is created as a resource for TNCO members and the public to learn more about Tennessee's Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).

Tera Parsons
Diana Jackson
Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Melanie Keller
TNCO President, 2025 - 2026

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ICF Overview

“ICF” refers to Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). These residential settings provide essential care, support, and services for people with intellectual disabilities. Many of TNCO’s provider members oversee and manage community ICF homes across the state.

Read more below to learn about these private ICF homes and the important role they fill for individuals and families in Tennessee.

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Learn More About ICF in the State of Tennessee

The State of Tennessee offers a spectrum of services to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) and Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver Programs. Most people needing residential support live in an HCBS waiver-funded home, either funded by the Employment and Community First (ECF) Choice's waiver or the Department of Disabilities and Aging (DDA) waiver.



The DDA waiver is often called the 1915(c) waiver because it is administered under the authority of Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act. Thousands of individuals in Tennessee receive funding from a 1915(c) waiver but today people who are new to services admit into ECF Choices because DDA considers the 1915(c) waivers closed to new admissions. Sometimes HCBS support is not sufficient for an individual's needs, and that person can be better supported in an ICF Home because ICF offers the most comprehensive level of services of all State programs, and its funding is not subject to the uncertainty of the State's annual budget processes. The cost of the program is zero for the family, assuming the individual meets the requirements and is already on Medicaid.

Currently, all 50 States offer ICF Residential Services with more than 100,000 people supported nationwide. In Tennessee, legislation limits the number of possible ICF beds to 804. Most ICF service providers operate at or near capacity. Both ICF Services and HCBS Services provide lifelines for families and meet the needs of individuals with IDD across the State of Tennessee. Where hundreds of people across the State live in an ICF home, thousands live in an HCBS home. ICF Homes exist to support individuals with the greatest needs and these supports have been provided in Tennessee by private community ICF providers since 1990. There will not be any more ICF homes created because they were established when Tennessee was closing its large institutions.



Accessing ICF

Private providers opened community ICF homes beginning in the early 1990's in response to the State's initiative to close state operated institutions.

ICF homes support 4-8 individuals each and are in residential communities across the State for the greatest opportunity to provide social integration and active treatment.

ICF's are licensed by the State of Tennessee and oversight is provided by:

- Department of TennCare
- Department of Health
- Department of Disability and Aging
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

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Delve
Deeper
Into
ICF
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Today's ICF admission can come from many sources:

◆ **Source 1:**

The individual who is aging out of school and the family can no longer support 24-hour care or provide the support to allow the individual to maximize their quality of life.

◆ **Source 2:**

Aging caregivers or the cost of care emotionally, physically, and/or financially is too great a burden.

◆ **Source 3:**

The individual needs more therapeutic support (PT, OT, Speech, Behavioral, etc.) than can be provided in the home.

◆ **Source 4:**

The individual is seeking a better quality of life than can be offered in a nursing home.

◆ **Source 5:**

The needs of the individual exceed the dollar cap of their current service plan.

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ICF helps
families
and their
loved ones
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ICF providers serve the most medically fragile and those with severe intellectual, physical, behavioral and developmental disabilities. Per statute, to be admitted to an ICF Home, individuals must have an IQ of 70 or lower and have other developmental disabilities.

Because of the limited number of beds each provider is responsible for onboarding individuals whom they can best serve.

Providers also maintain their own waitlist so please get to know your providers before you need the services.



Services

Please see below for available ICF services:

ICF Fact #001

ICF Homes provide 24-hour awake staff with typically higher staffing ratios than other programs

ICF Fact #002

ICF Homes provide Active Treatment, which is defined as a continuous, aggressive, and consistent program of specialized; generic training, treatment, and health or related services that are directed toward helping each individual function with as much self-determination and independence as possible. Active treatment is required across all environments and during all waking hours both informally and formally.

Each individual participates in a comprehensive assessment which includes all therapy assessments, individual, family, and staff input, and a medical assessment. Data from the comprehensive assessment is collated by the Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional (QIDP) and is the foundation for all Active Treatment. The QIDP and Circle of Support use this assessment to formulate an Individual's Support Plan and to develop and monitor both formal and informal services. The Support Plan uses a person-centered structure to document supervision needs, individual preferences, and goals to facilitate the individual succeeding in their desired life and improving their independence. The QIDP also ensures each individual's goals are specific, measurable, relevant and flexible.

ICF Fact #003



Services

ICF Fact #004

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ICF Services support individuals in day programs, community outings, volunteering, supported employment, and any other programs that foster inclusion and independence.

ICF Fact #005

ICF Fact #006

The State of Tennessee mandates an individual/conservator complete a Freedom of Choice process before entering ICF Services. This Freedom of Choice ensures each person understands the alternative services available, but no State can limit access to ICF Services as the individual/conservator have the right to make an informed choice between ICF and another service offered by the State such as HCBS (waiver) programs.

ICF Services provide case management and comprehensive programming oversight by a QIDP, medication administration by licensed nurses, access to 24-hour nursing, comprehensive protection from harm oversight, healthcare services, behavioral services, transportation services, required therapeutic services, recreation and community engagement and enhanced building standards for safety requirements.

ICF Fact #007



**REPORTED BY
TNCO'S ICF COMMITTEE**



Address

*40 Rutledge Street,
Nashville, TN 37211*