

Making the Case for CCS

The Community Comprehensive Services (CCS) benefit was approved by the Legislature in 1997 with the passage of Wisconsin Act 27. It is a Medicaid funded psych-social rehabilitation benefit. It first started in 2004 in Marathon county. As of 2006, CCS programs existed in 14 counties in the state.

This benefit should not be eliminated, but instead should be expanded because:

- Implementing CCS would not have an effect on state General Purpose Revenues (GPR). Federal Medicaid and county match would fund it.
- The DHFS supported this benefit as it was recognized that the provider network at the time was not able to adequately meet the needs of all consumers seeking or requiring services.
- Significant numbers of consumers do not require the intensity of services provided by Community Support Programs (CSP) yet have needs that could not be met by the other available treatment providers.
- It was further recognized that the treatment needs of children, adolescents and elders who were not involved in the current system of service delivery could benefit from inclusion in community based psychosocial services called for in Act 27.

The development of CCS in Wisconsin is critical for the following reasons:

- CCS would offer a level of service in the community that is beyond the scope of current out patient, targeted case management and day treatment services.
- CCS would ease the burden of waiting lists and has the potential to prevent the use of unfavorable and more costly treatment options such as out-of-county placements, Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRFs), or nursing home stays.
- CCS would allow for judicious use of service resources providing a range of service choices that would better match the needs of individual consumers. The current limitations lead to some individuals being under-served or taking a “slot” in a program intended to serve people with greater needs because there are not less intensive alternatives.
- CCS would provide a needed funding stream to county mental health systems for services that are greatly needed but at present are minimally reimbursed.
- CCS would allow for more consumer options and greater choice.