

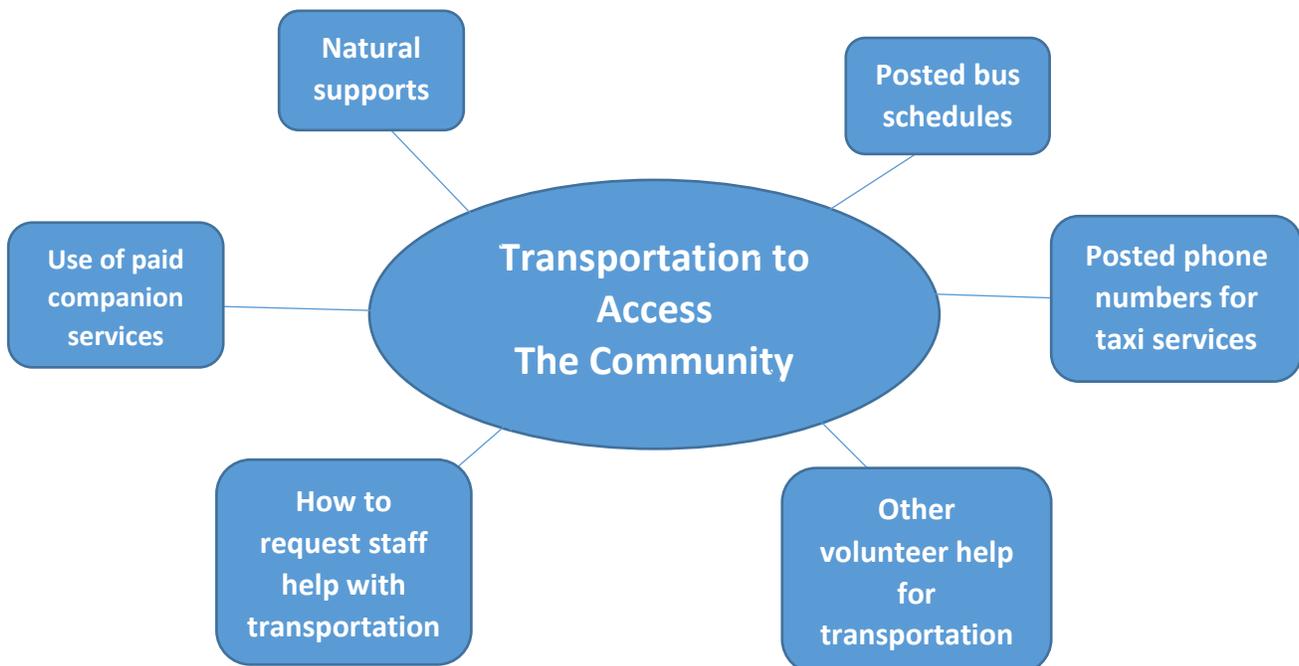
### **HCBS Settings Requirement**

The setting is integrated and supports full access to the greater community. This includes opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources and receive services in the community, to the same degree of access as individuals who do not receive HCBS.

### **Intent (Community Life)**

Individuals who receive HCBS have equal access to the same community resources and activities available to the greater community. Rules and practices that facilitate community access should be established. When providing Medicaid waiver services and supports individuals should not be isolated from individuals who do not have disabilities. As a provider, you must ensure that your practices do not create an environment that is institutional in nature. You support individuals in their desires to participate in the community providing opportunities for new experiences using the philosophy and practice of person-centered thinking to:

- Ensure individuals have opportunities and supports needed to be fully included in the community
- Identify information on transportation options
- Assist with developing meaningful relationships
- Ensure that individuals have services, resources, and supports to explore and engage in meaningful activities.





## Community Life

### Examples

- Staff help a group of individuals plan a trip to Kings Dominion. Each individual is encouraged to consider a list of friends to invite on the trip. The provider transports the individuals to the park and a pick up time and location is determined. Each individual goes through the park with their friend/natural support(s) to explore the park, rides and activities.
- Two individuals want to participate in a Zumba class. Staff help the individuals search the internet for available classes, review registration requirements, and explore options for transportation. Both individuals select a nearby community center and are able to ride a local bus or access Uber to Zumba class where they exercise and interact with other class members.

### Best Practice Suggestions

- ✓ The mission statement and admission agreement contains information on the organization's support of integration and community access.
- ✓ Provider creates clear expectations for staff to adhere to the services and activities in the individual's plans while respecting the need for flexibility should an individual's preferences change.
- ✓ Planning meetings are held with individuals to discuss opportunities for the coming weeks to ensure community integration.
- ✓ Provider supports individuals in trying new things and shares information about activities in the community.
- ✓ Provider supports individuals in exploring options for transportation to access the community (e.g., use of public transit, family, friends, companion services, volunteers).
- ✓ Provider has written policies and procedures explaining individual's access to and utilization of transportation to access the community.
- ✓ Provider posts information about how to access transportation.
- ✓ Progress notes, activity logs, and calendars document community activities and response.
- ✓ Consistent and individualized documentation of the # & type of community connections an individual makes
- ✓ Access to information about community events is available in a variety of ways such as the internet, newspaper, newsletter, etc.
- ✓ Provider helps the individual search for a job and prepare for employment

### Additional Guidance

#### What is an integrated setting?

Integrated settings provide people the opportunity to live, work, and receive services in the greater community. They offer access to community activities when and with whom the person chooses. They offer people choices in daily life activities and encourages interaction with people without disabilities or who are not receiving HCBS.

#### Is integration different for everyone?

Yes, each individual may have different needs and different desires. Direct support professionals (DSPs) should be educated and trained to address individual needs and desires. DSP's seek and discover ways to support each individual to the extent possible. One individual's needs should not limit another person's freedoms and opportunities. To fully support community integration, settings must facilitate individuals taking part in age

HCBS Toolkit: All Settings/Setting is Integrated and Supports Full access to the Community

(Community Life)

7/24/2018





## Community Life

appropriate activities with other individuals who do not receive HCBS. In residential settings, if access to the community is limited, the provider should facilitate access to transportation however possible (i.e., natural supports, taxi services, bus).

### **Red Flags** 🚩 -- **Practices to Avoid**

- 🚩 No written policies and procedures on access to and utilization of transportation.
- 🚩 No expectation for staff to adhere to the services and activities documented in service plans.
- 🚩 A lack of documentation by staff that reflects community engagement activities and an individual's response.
- 🚩 Due to a lack of staff, individuals consistently miss desired opportunities to access the community.
- 🚩 Due to a lack of transportation, individuals consistently miss desired opportunities to access the community.
- 🚩 Provider discourages individuals from trying new activities because of concerns about possible risks and perceived limitations of the individual.
- 🚩 Provider plans activities without input from individuals.
- 🚩 Failure to budget with the individual or plan for provider sponsored cost.
- 🚩 Documentation of community activities is the same for all individuals' supports

#### Acknowledgements:

Idaho- Welcome to HCBS Rules Guidance Section of the Provider Toolkit

Minnesota- A Provider's Guide To Putting the HCBS Rule Into Practice

Wyoming-HCB Setting Improvement Strategies Guidance for Case Managers, Providers, Participants & Guardians

South Dakota-Guide to Expectations and Compliance