

# Using Waiver Funds to Help Pay for Camp



AuSM recommends applying to the camp lottery even if your support plan has not yet approved camp as an allowable expense, or you are in the appeal process after receiving a denial ([see appeal information here for assistance](#)). To attend camp, your annual budget/support plan must be pre-approved by your case manager.

## IF YOU HAVE NOT YET HAD YOUR SUPPORT PLAN APPROVED BY YOUR CASE MANAGER

Camp may be an allowable expenditure for your CDCS (consumer-directed community supports) budget if your needs assessment and community support plan, as well as goals, are in line with camp activities and supports. The new unbundling guidelines for waivers may result in only partial coverage of camp.

### For the most successful outcomes please make sure that your waiver budget includes the following:

Your camper will need to have a demonstrated need for a specialized camp on their MnCHOICES Assessment: Places we might see that evidence on their support plan include needs indicated for:

- assessment of psycho-social, safety and self-preservation, sensory and communication, and self-direction support needs.

and/or

- activities for daily living that include:
  - eating
  - dressing
  - behavior management
    - socially unacceptable behavior
    - wandering and elopement
    - difficulty regulating emotions
    - susceptibility to victimization
    - impulsivity and anxiety

### With these needs in the assessment, you will also need a goal in your plan that relates to the following:

- **Social-emotional learning**

Example: **YOUR CAMPER** will work on self-regulation and communicating needs in a setting separate from parents.

- **Adaptive skills and recreation**

Example: **YOUR CAMPER** will participate in supported programs to increase motor skills and gain peer interaction with adapted programming to allow for staffing to support demonstrated behavior needs including **\*insert documented behavior needs here.\***

- **Disability-specific safety**

Example: **YOUR CAMPER** will benefit from community activities to increase skills in independent living, self-regulation, and self-advocacy that provide **\*list specific supports needed at camp\*** to successfully engage in recreational activities that will increase skills in independent living, self-regulation, and self-advocacy.

## Your goal must be submitted under: Individual-directed goods and services.

**Sample Goal:** Due to documented needs **YOUR CAMPER** requires an adaptive camp environment for participation. Comparable camp rates for non adaptive camp are \$560 Adults (Age 26+); \$560 Young Adults (Age18-25); \$525 Youth, we are requesting that **YOUR CAMPERs** waiver funds pay for the additional amount of \$1439/1474 per DHS guidance regarding modifications to recreational activities.

## IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED WAIVER FUNDING FOR CAMP IN PREVIOUS PLAN YEARS:

- Confirm that your camper's needs have not changed. If their support needs have decreased, previous precedent may not apply.
- If no support-need changes have occurred, or need level has increased, indicate previous successful approval and engagement in your additional information on the waiver goal.

## Terms to Avoid

Some verbiage people tend to use in their plan should be avoided because they can cause confusion around regulations and allowable services. We recommend that these words/things **are not referenced** for optimal outcomes.

- **Respite**

There are different guidelines for waivers under traditional and CDCS plans, so it is best to not reference respite.

- **Room and board**

We cannot separate this out, and room and board is on the DHS unallowable list.

- **Love of camp**

AuSM understands and appreciates the joy camp brings, but it's not something that is considered a justification for services through the Medicaid Waiver system.

## Camp will be considered an unallowable waiver expenditure if it:

- duplicates other goods or services in the CDCS CSP.
- is available through other funding sources.
- is not the least costly and most effective way to meet the person's needs.
- is provided prior to the CDCS CSP's development.
- supplants natural supports that appropriately meet the person's needs.

## TIPS

Consider using a support planner for help with planning goals – you can find resources on the AuSM's Resource Directory.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact Director of Camp Programs, Kaylen Lowe at 651.647.1083 ext. 116, or via email at [camp@ausm.org](mailto:camp@ausm.org).