



There are 3 main differences between ICF's and Waiver Programs. Housing, Money and Services.

	Waiver	ICF
HOUSING	Your benefits have to cover the cost of housing/rent. They also have to cover the costs associated with food, utilities, transportation and other services not covered.	Cost of housing covered. No additional costs for food, transportation or utilities.
MONEY	The individual has total control over his money. From benefits, employment, etc. and has the responsibility to pay all of his/her costs.	Benefits are used to pay cost of care. Personal Spending allowance monthly. If employed, a portion is given back to the state to offset cost of care. Individual funds are managed and reports completed routinely.
SERVICES	You select your own staff, available only for times of approved services. Services such as transportation, nursing, therapies are covered on a fee for service basis and has to be an approved cost in the care plan. Often limited services available for transportation at nights or on weekends. Costs for day program have to be built into the cost plan.	Staff are employed 24/7 to provide services, including medical emergencies. Transportation is provided to doctor's appointments, community activities, day programs or work. Therapies such as Speech, PT, OT and Nutrition are Provided usually on-site. Day program costs, meals and transportation included. RN and LPN nursing provided.



- In addition to these main differences, the individual who chooses ICF can begin receiving services while awaiting a waiver slot to open.
- Individuals in need of service can get services immediately.
- Unless Transportation is provided by a waiver provider, the individual is at the mercy of local transportation Services/companies. Many individuals, especially those in wheelchairs or with limited mobility feel trapped in their homes at night and on weekends due to a lack of availability of transportation.
- Food stamps can be granted if applied for, but like ancillary services in the cost plan, they have to be renewed on a scheduled basis. They are not guaranteed from year to year and if the individual is employed it can Offset the costs of these benefits.
- Just in the general structure of an ICF there are more staff and more Supervision to ensure needed services are provided.
- Nursing and other medical care are provided on a Set scheduled basis in an ICF.
- Inspections to ICF's are much more thorough based on state and federal regulations to maintain compliance with national standards of care.