**Appendix XX, STAR+PLUS HCBS Program Eligibility TAC**

1-2022

**1 Texas Administrative Code** §**353.1153 STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Program**

(a) The MCO assesses an individual's eligibility for STAR+PLUS HCBS.

(1) To be eligible for the STAR+PLUS HCBS program, an individual must:

(A) be 21 years of age or older;

(B) reside in Texas;

(C) meet the level-of-care criteria for medical necessity for nursing facility care as determined by HHSC;

(D) have an unmet need for support in the community that can be met through one or more of the STAR+PLUS HCBS program services;

(E) choose the STAR+PLUS HCBS program as an alternative to nursing facility services, as described in [42 CFR §441.302](http://txrules.elaws.us/rule/'/citeit/cfr/42cfr441.302')(d);

(F) not be enrolled in another Medicaid HCBS waiver program approved by CMS; and

(G) be determined by HHSC to be financially eligible for Medicaid, as described in Chapter 358 of this title (relating to Medicaid Eligibility for the Elderly and People with Disabilities) and Chapter 360 of this title (relating to Medicaid Buy-In Program).

(2) An individual receiving Medicaid nursing facility services is approved for the STAR+PLUS HCBS program if the individual requests services while residing in the nursing facility and meets eligibility criteria listed in paragraph (1) of this subsection. If the individual is voluntarily discharged from the nursing facility into a community setting before being determined eligible for Medicaid nursing facility services and the STAR+PLUS program, the individual is denied immediate enrollment in the program.

(b) HHSC maintains a statewide interest list of individuals not enrolled in STAR+PLUS interested in receiving services through the STAR+PLUS HCBS program. There is no interest list for individuals currently enrolled in STAR+PLUS who are eligible to receive services through the STAR+PLUS HCBS program. Individuals enrolled in STAR+PLUS may contact their MCO for more information about STAR+PLUS HCBS.

(1) A person may request an individual's name be added to the STAR+PLUS HCBS interest list by:

(A) calling HHSC toll-free at 1-855-937-2372;

(B) submitting a written request to HHSC; or

(C) generating a referral through YourTexasBenefits.com, Find Support Services screening and referral tool.

(2) HHSC removes an individual's name from the STAR+PLUS HCBS interest list if:

(A) the individual is deceased;

(B) the individual is assessed for the program and determined to be ineligible;

(C) the individual or LAR requests in writing that the individual's name be removed from the interest list; or

(D) the individual is no longer a Texas resident, unless the individual is a military family member living outside of Texas as described in Texas Government Code §531.0931:

(i) while the military member is on active duty; or

(ii) for less than one year after the former military member's active duty ends.

(c) The MCO develops a person-centered individual service plan (ISP) for each member, and all applicable documentation, as described in the STAR+PLUS Handbook.

(1) The ISP must:

(A) include services described in the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program Waiver, governed by §1115(a) of the Social Security Act.

(B) include services necessary to protect the individual's health and welfare in the community;

(C) include services that supplement rather than supplant the individual's natural supports and other non-STAR+PLUS HCBS supports and services for which the individual may be eligible;

(D) include services designed to prevent the individual's admission to an institution;

(E) include the most appropriate type and amount of services to meet the individual's needs in the community;

(F) be reviewed and revised if an individual's needs or natural supports change or at the request of the individual or their legally authorized representative;

(G) be approved by HHSC; and

(H) be cost effective.

(2) If an individual's ISP exceeds 202 percent of the cost of the individual's level-of-care in a nursing facility to safely serve the individual's needs in the community, the MCO must submit a request for a clinical assessment for general revenue funds to HHSC.

(d) MCOs are responsible for conducting reassessments and ISP development for their enrollees' continued eligibility for STAR+PLUS HCBS, in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in the STAR+PLUS Handbook and in accordance with the timeframes outlined in the managed care contracts governing STAR+PLUS.

(e) MCOs are responsible for authorizing a network provider of the individual's choosing to deliver services outlined in an individual's ISP.

(f) Individuals participating in STAR+PLUS HCBS have the same rights and responsibilities as any individual enrolled in managed care, as described in Subchapter C of this chapter (relating to Member Bill of Rights and Responsibilities), including the right to appeal a decision made by HHSC or an MCO and the right to a fair hearing, as described in Chapter 357, Subchapter A, of this title (relating to Uniform Fair Hearing Rules).

(g) HHSC conducts utilization reviews of STAR+PLUS MCOs as described in Texas Government Code §533.00281.

Source Note: The provisions of this §353.1153 adopted to be effective November 1, 2016, 41 TexReg 8265