

Community Interveners: A Critical Medicaid Service for Deafblind Individuals

- Community Interveners provide trained, one-to-one support enabling deafblind individuals to access information, communicate, and participate safely in their communities.
- They bridge the gap for individuals who cannot reliably see or hear, providing essential visual, auditory, and environmental information.
- Interveners support real-time communication, increase safety, reduce isolation, and foster independence and confidence.
- Several states have implemented Intervener services through Medicaid waivers or state programs.
- Billing models vary, including direct provider billing and inclusion within Medicaid waiver services.
- National data from the National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) shows consistent Intervener support leads to:
 - Higher communication success
 - Greater access to learning
 - Improved emotional regulation
 - Reduced isolation and challenging behaviors
- States with Intervener services report outcomes such as:
 - Increased communication and independence
 - Improved safety and successful transitions to adulthood
 - Higher participation in community and vocational settings
 - Reduced caregiver stress and increased self-advocacy skills
 - Greater stability in home and community placements
 - Significant increases in choice-making and improved orientation and mobility
- Community Interveners are an evidence-based, nationally recognized support that dramatically improves outcomes for deafblind individuals.
- Adding Community Interveners to Medicaid is an investment in access, independence, and quality of life.
- Kentucky has the opportunity to join leading states in providing this critical service, ensuring safety, dignity, and true community inclusion.