

HART-SUPPORTED LIVING

OVERVIEW

Hart-Supported Living is a program that provides grants to persons with a disability. These grants are used to fund individually designed plans for support. The plan for support is designed by the individual, with assistance from others that support the person. The individual requests funding for supports that are needed so that the individual can live and participate in the community. Kentucky Supported Living was started in 1992 when the Kentucky Supported Living Statute was passed. The statute was amended in 2006 and the program is now called Hart-Supported Living.

This law defines Hart-Supported Living as “grants which provide a broad category of highly flexible, individualized services which, when combined with natural unpaid or other eligible paid supports” provide the necessary assistance for the individual to live in the community. The statute requires that the Hart-Supported Living program promote:

- **Choice** over how, when, and by whom supports are provided and over where and with whom a person with a disability lives;
- **Responsibility** of the person with a disability and his or her representative for managing grants and the provision of service under the grant;
- **Freedom** to live a meaningful life and to participate in the community with members of the general citizenry:
- Enhancement of **health and safety**;
- **Flexibility** of services that change as the person’s needs change without the individual having to move elsewhere for services;
- Use of **generic options and natural supports**;
- Well-planned and proactive **opportunities to determine** the kinds and amounts of support desired, with the meaningful participation of the individual, the individual’s family or guardian where appropriate, friends, and professionals;
- **Home ownership or leasing** with the home belonging to the person with a disability, that person’s family, or to a landlord to whom rent is paid.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR HART-SUPPORTED LIVING?

Any individual with a disability who resides in Kentucky or whose family or guardian resides in Kentucky is eligible to apply for a grant. Hart-Supported Living uses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) definition of a person with a disability: someone with a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits a major life activity such as walking, talking, seeing, hearing, caring for oneself, or working.

WHO RUNS THIS PROGRAM?

Ultimately, the individual and the people who support the individual are responsible for implementing each plan. The individual designs his or her own plan for support. If the plan is funded, the individual chooses who provides services. The individual may choose an agency or may hire employees. If the individual becomes an employer, then all tax and other employment laws must be followed. The funds necessary to do this should be included in the plan.

WHO ADMINISTERS HART-SUPPORTED LIVING?

The fourteen Kentucky Community Mental Health/Mental Retardation Boards (also known as Comprehensive Care Centers) administer Hart-Supported Living on a Regional level. There is a Regional Hart-Supported Living Coordinator in each region. The Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation through the Division of Mental Retardation administers Hart-Supported Living on the State level. There is a State Hart-Supported Living Coordinator and a governor-appointed State Hart-Supported Living Council which provides oversight to the program.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Even though this program is administered through the Division of Mental Retardation, Hart-Supported Living is for **all** individuals with disabilities, not just MR/DD.

WHO MAKES FUNDING DECISIONS?

Funding decisions are made by Review Teams who review each application using the following criteria: Adherence to Principles of Hart-Supported Living; Potential for Success; Need; Accountability and Overall Quality of Life. The funding recommendations must be within the amount of funding available to the Region. Hart-Supported Living is not an entitlement program and many eligible, deserving and compelling applications may not be funded. Applications which are not funded year are kept on file during each Fiscal Year in the event that funding does become available. Applicants who were not funded in one fiscal year must reapply by April 1 to be considered for funding for the next fiscal year.

WHAT SUPPORTS OR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

Applicants may request “one-time” grants, “on-going” grants or a combination of both. Grants can be requested to fund supports such as:

ONE-TIME –

- Home Modifications – Accessibility adaptations such as ramps, widened doorways, accessible bathrooms, etc. The modification must be related to the individual’s disability.
- Adaptive and Therapeutic Equipment –TTY/TDD modules, communication devices, Medicalert, fire alarm, canine companion, assistive technology, etc.

ONGOING –

- Community Resource Developer – Assists a person to develop relationships, opportunities, and networks in the community which might be sustained over time.
- Personal Care – Assists with hygiene, personal appointments, appearance and attendant care,
- Homemaker – Assist with maintaining the household
- Employment related expenses – Employer’s share of payroll taxes, unemployment insurance, worker’s compensation insurance, accounting assistance.
- Transportation – Includes transportation to work and community activities.

HOW DO I APPLY AND HOW DO I GET HELP WITH MY APPLICATION?

*Contact the Coordinator in your region for an application. The Regional Hart-Supported Living Coordinator will provide information about Hart-Supported Living and will provide assistance in completing the application.

***Applications are due no later than April 1 of each year for possible funding beginning July 1. This is a firm deadline.**

* Information about Supported Living and an application can also be requested from:

Vondah Vanderhorst, State Hart-Supported Living Coordinator
Department for Ag100 Fair Oaks 4W-C
Frankfort, KY 40621-0001
(502) 564-7702

*Information about Hart-Supported Living and the application can be found on the web site:
<http://mhmr.ky.gov/mr/supportedliving.asp>