



## MFTD Waiver Families

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### The Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver (MFTD Waiver)

The Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver (MFTD Waiver) is a Medicaid program that the federal government has granted to the state of Illinois to prevent costly institutionalization and permanent hospitalization of children who need medical technology.

Most children on this waiver are ventilator-dependent, have tracheostomies, or have central IV lines, and require extensive care and services. Without this waiver, 95% of these children would require permanent hospitalization to receive their care. The remaining 5% could be cared for in a skilled nursing facility.

Children throughout the state are eligible for the waiver as long as they are under 21, meet medical eligibility, require ongoing home nursing, can safely be cared for at home, and the cost of care is less than it would be in a hospital or skilled nursing facility.

It is six times cheaper for Illinois to provide care through this program than to keep children in hospitals. The average cost for hospitalization in a pediatric hospital is \$56,000 per month, while the average cost of private duty nursing at home is \$8888 per month (2012 data).

Currently, the capacity of the waiver is 700 children, with 666 of these spots designated for children who require a hospital level of care. About 500 children are in the program at any given time.

More information:

- MFTD Waiver Families Program Description  
<http://www.mftdwaiver.org/about-the-mftd-waiver>
- 2014 Report of Medicaid Services for Persons who are Medically Fragile, Technology Dependent  
<https://www2.illinois.gov/hfs/agency/Pages/2014MFTD.aspx>