

A Comparison of Specialized Family Care and other Home Placement Options

	Specialized Family Care	Intensive Support Setting	Intermediate Care Facility
Design	<p>Specialized Family Care (SFC) is a long-term foster care program for both children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. The program seeks long term, preferably permanent, placements where the placed individual becomes part of the family. In the case of children, the Specialized Family Care Provider may become the legal guardian for the child and if the family chooses, adoption may be an option. SFC homes may provide care to individuals with a wide range of disabilities, including mobility disabilities. SFC homes want to be the forever home that provides the love, care and supervision these individuals need to live a healthy and fulfilling life.</p>	<p>Intensive Support Settings (ISS) are residential home settings for one to three adults living in a home or apartment. A behavioral health agency provides supports and supervision to ensure all basic needs are met and allowing for a safe and healthy environment for the individuals in placement. Because an ISS is essentially a private home for individuals, those living in an ISS setting may take on more responsibility for the upkeep and care of their home and personal belongings. Those in an ISS may help in their care by helping with grocery shopping, doing their laundry, cleaning their home, etc. An ISS may serve individuals with mobility disabilities or a combination of health issues.</p>	<p>Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/IID) facilities provide housing and care in small facilities throughout the state. The facilities are typically operated by behavioral health facilities. Commonly, four (4) to eight (8) people reside in each facility, with 24 hour staffing. These facilities are licensed through the Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification (OHFLAC). The services provided are based on each person's needs, which vary according to age and level of disability. Covered services that are part of the per diem rate include room and board, nursing services, non-covered drugs, medical supplies, accessories and equipment, rehabilitation services.</p>
Purpose	<p>The initial purpose of SFC was to provide family-based housing and care for children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities who had been institutionalized in state hospitals as children. As the program grew, it also began serving adults and children who are at-risk of being institutionalized or placed in a more restrictive environment. The purpose of SFC remains to provide housing and care, along with the support that comes from family life.</p>	<p>The purpose of an ISS setting is for the person to live independently in their own home/apartment. An ISS may have one to three people sharing living space. The individuals living in an ISS pay rent and other costs associated with an independent home. No biological, adoptive or other family members or natural supports reside in the home setting with the person. The agency operating the ISS is responsible for providing staffing to meet the needs of the individuals in the home, up to 24/7 care. Usually the person has little choice in the staff.</p>	<p>This program was established in 1971 due to legislation providing for Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for ICFs/MR as an optional Medicaid service. This allows states the option to receive federal matching funds for institutional services. Most of the ICFs/ IID in West Virginia serve individuals with developmental disabilities who may be non-ambulatory, have seizure disorders, severe behavior concerns, mental illness, visual or hearing impairments, complex health problems, or a combination of these issues.</p>
Services	<p>SFC Providers are responsible for providing care and supervision, and assisting the person in meeting any objectives outlined in program plans or nursing plans of care. Individuals in placement participate in family activities such as attending concerts, sporting events, going camping or on family vacations.</p>	<p>These settings must meet the same criteria required for an intermediate level of care. ISS settings provide care 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Services available are monitoring, supervision, assistance and instruction and may also include medication administration, nursing, payeeship, and therapies.</p>	<p>To qualify for Medicaid reimbursement, ICFs/IID must be certified and comply with federal standards in eight areas; management, client protections, facility staffing, active treatment, client behavior and facility practices, health care, physical environment and dietetic services.</p>
Funding	<p>To receive placement an individual must have an I/DD diagnosis and qualify for Medicaid Title XIX I/DD Waiver services, Medicaid Personal Care Services or be able to private pay for services received.</p>	<p>Intensive Support Settings (ISS) are funded through the WV Home and Community Based Waiver program. The individual approved for an ISS setting must have funding through the Medicaid Title XIX I/DD Waiver Program.</p>	<p>All placements must qualify for Medicaid assistance financially. ICFs/IID in this state are primarily for adults.</p>