



Division of Specialized Care for Children

July 22, 2026

Dear participant family,

We have an important update about respite services through the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Those Who Are Medically Fragile and Technology Dependent (MFTD waiver).

What is Changing?

Currently, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) renews each participant's 336 hours of annual respite services based on their individual MFTD waiver enrollment date.

Beginning Sept. 1, 2026, all MFTD waiver participants will have the same annual respite renewal date. Respite hours for all participants will reset each year on Sept. 1.

What does this mean for your family?

- On Sept. 1, 2026, your respite hours will reset to 336 hours.
- Your respite hours will continue to reset to 336 hours each year on Sept. 1.
- **You will not lose respite hours because of this change.** It does not reduce the number of respite hours available to your family.
- Each waiver participant will continue to receive 336 hours of respite services per year.

Unused respite hours do not roll over. Any hours left on Aug. 31, 2026, will not carry forward when the **new 336 hours begin on Sept. 1, 2026.**

Why is this change happening?

Having the same respite hour renewal date for all MFTD waiver participants will:

- Make it easier to know when your respite hours will renew each year.
- Provide clear, consistent timelines for families and care teams.
- Improve communication and planning for services.
- Help ensure everyone knows when respite hours renew each year.

Questions?

If you have questions or would like help planning your respite usage, please contact your Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) Care Coordinator.

We are here to support your family and help make this transition as smooth as possible.