

Applying for the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Program for a Minor Child

To learn more about these and other programs, contact **Family Voices Indiana**. We will assist you as you navigate health care systems and services, especially those available to individuals with special health care needs.

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The Family Supports Waiver (FSW) is sometimes inadequate to serve a minor child's needs. If this is the case, application to the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) program may be appropriate through one of the routes discussed below.

Entrance into the CIH program can occur if the individual (1) meets priority criteria of one of the federally-approved category, (2) a waiver slot is available, and (3) the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) determines no other services or placements are suitable.

Priority criteria includes, but is not limited to:

- Loss of primary caregiver where no other caregiver is available
- Caregiver over 80 years of age where no other caregiver is available
- Transitioning from a facility to a community setting
- Extraordinary health and safety risk of the individual

If the minor child is receiving FSW services, then the family may ask the waiver case manager to assist them with the application process for the CIH waiver.

If an individual is not receiving Home-Based and Community Services and the family is interested in applying for a waiver (either FSW or CIH), then they should contact the local BDDS office to begin the application process.

The most common reason for seeking a CIH waiver for a minor child is to address behavioral needs due to a developmental disability. In this case, the application process for the CIH waiver for a minor child includes completing a CIH Request Form, **or** by completing the questionnaire: *Emergency Intervention Strategies for Minor Children with Developmental Disabilities*. BDDS will use the information on the form to assess and determine what supports and services may be available to the child. The Division of Child Services (DCS) may be brought in for support and/or additional assessment. Though this is understandably alarming, this is necessary to possibly fund additional services and supports through other state agencies and programs, such as the Children's Mental Health Initiative.

When completing the *Emergency Intervention Strategies for Minor Children with Developmental Disabilities* questionnaire, families/guardians should be honest and thorough. Collateral information from the school or from others should be attached to the questionnaire. It is very important to give a complete picture of the needs of the child being evaluated for the CIH waiver.

Completed forms requesting utilization of the CIH program should be sent to the local BDDS office, where they will undergo review. BDDS will notify the family of what supports can be offered.

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated November 2018. Please check http://fvindiana.org/fact_sheets for the most recent edition.

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