

Respite Care

What is Respite?

Respite is a service providing caregivers an opportunity for rest and relief from caregiving duties. Depending upon a variety of eligibility factors, individuals with special health care needs and their families may have different respite options.

Respite While Waiting for Waiver Services

Individuals who are currently on the Family Supports Waiver waiting list may apply for Caregiver Support Services through the Bureau of Developmental Disability Services (BDDS). To be eligible for the program, the individual may not be receiving similar services via other DDRS programs. Caregiver Support Services is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and the funds typically open in June or July of each year. Limited funds are dispersed until deplete. A new application must be submitted each year. Respite must be provided by an approved provider. To apply online, visit:

<https://ddrsprovider.fssa.in.gov/BDDS/ConsumerInfo/CaregiverSupportRequest.aspx>. More information is available here: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/2639.htm>. Please contact Family Voices Indiana for the latest updates regarding Caregiver Support Services applications and dates.

Respite via Waiver Services

Once the individual with special needs has been targeted for an Aged and Disabled, Traumatic Brain Injury, Community Integration and Habilitation, or Family Supports waiver, respite may be accessed as a waiver service. The waiver case manager will provide a list of providers and information about the service. Typically, this type of respite cannot be used during a parent's work or school hours.

Respite Funded by Medicaid

Individuals receiving Medicaid services and who have a need for skilled care may be able to access periodic respite via a nursing facility. This will require a doctor's order and a screening process. This type of respite is also limited.

Local Respite Programs

Respite may be available from local providers, such as Easter Seals, churches (especially those with disability ministries), and service organizations. The Indiana Resource Center for Autism maintains a list of respite options in Indiana, available here:

<http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/?pagelid=553>.

Families with the ability to privately pay may advertise and search for providers at local colleges and universities and on web-based care databases, such as [Child Care Answers](#) and [Care.com](#), which allow providers to list skills qualifying them to care for individuals with special health care needs. Some Medicaid waiver providers will accept private pay and may be privately contracted. Families seeking financial assistance to pay for respite may wish to research and apply for grants offered by community organizations.

Long-Term Respite

There are facilities that offer longer-term respite, such as Agape Respite (<http://www.agaperespite.org>) and A Rosie Place (<http://www.arosieplace.org/>).

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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To learn more about these and other programs supporting families of children with special health care needs, contact Family Voices Indiana.

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