

Medicaid Waivers

Indiana's Family Supports Waiver & Community Integration Habilitation Waivers

What are Medicaid Waivers?

Waivers are a part of the federally and state funded Medicaid program that provides for reasonable and necessary medical care for persons meeting eligibility requirements. Waivers provide funding for children and adults with disabilities to receive support and services in the home and community rather than in an institutional setting. Indiana has two types of home and community-based waiver programs: medical and habilitative (for those with a developmental disability or intellectual disability or qualifying condition that results in functional limitations).

In order to qualify for the developmental program, children and adults with developmental disabilities must meet the level of care needed for admission to an Intermediate Care Facility for those with an intellectual disability, known as ICF/ID DD Level of Care. There are two Indiana Medicaid Waivers serving individuals with ICF/ID DD Level of Care - the Family Supports Waiver (FSW) and the Community Integration & Habilitation (CIH) Waiver. Each waiver has a federally approved capacity which determines the number of participants it serves.

How is Eligibility Determined?

To qualify for the Family Supports Waiver or Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver, an individual must have a developmental disability or related conditions diagnosed before the age of 22 (and expected to continue indefinitely) and meet ICF/ID DD Level of Care, meaning the person would be at risk of being placed in an institution without the services provided by the waiver.

The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) District Office determines whether the applicant has a developmental disability (DD) as defined by the State. If DD eligible, the district office also determines eligibility for the ICF/ID DD Level of Care waivers. The ICF/ID DD Level of Care is based upon the confirmation of diagnosis form completed by the physician, the completion of the Level of Care Screening Instrument (LOCSI), and the documentation used to determine eligibility for state DD services (this might include an IEP, etc). BDDS can also request an evaluation of the applicant, if needed.

The Community Integration and Habilitation waiver is a needs-based waiver, which means that an individual must meet the ICF/ID DD Level of Care and the priority criteria, which includes, but is not limited to, aging out or transitioning from a residential care facility or meeting emergency criteria, such as the death of or an aging primary care giver, evidence of abuse or neglect, and evidence of an extraordinary health or safety risk.

Family income and assets are NOT considered when determining Medicaid eligibility for a child under the age of eighteen who is applying for a waiver; but a child must be approved for Medicaid before waiver services can begin.

How do I Apply for a Waiver?

If your child has an intellectual/developmental disability, you may apply for waiver services by calling the local Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) District Office and requesting an Application for Developmental Disabilities Services. See the state map at (<http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4088.htm>) or call 1-800-545-7763 to locate your local office.

Waiver application forms may also be accessed online by following this link: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/3349.htm>. It is imperative that individuals submit the entire 3-part application.

Apply for a Waiver:

- At your Local BDDS Office. To find your local office, call **1-800-545-7763**

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Priority Criteria:

There are a few priority criteria categories in addition to those allocated for the CIH waiver. One category under the Family Supports Waiver sets aside waiver funds for eligible persons as they exit school (ages 18-24). Another allows for priority status for children of military families. The local BDDS office will work with you to determine if you qualify for priority criteria.

Provisional Eligibility:

Once an individual has submitted a waiver application, s/he is either placed on a waiting list for a waiver or deemed “provisionally eligible.” Applicants may apply for services and be placed on a waiting list under the FSW at any age.

Because the FSW currently operates on a waiting list based on application date, families are encouraged to apply for waiver services as soon as they suspect the waiver will be needed, regardless of the child’s age, as long as DDRS allows this practice.

What do I need to do to stay on the Waiting List?

You will need to update the BDDS office whenever your contact information, including phone or address, changes. It is advisable to contact the BDDS office annually to update and confirm your contact information. You can visit the BDDS Waitlist Web Portal at (<http://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/4328.htm>) to confirm that your information is correct.

What Documentation do I need to Maintain?

Keep a copy of your dated waiver application and any other correspondence (to include notes of phone conversations with times, dates, and names) with your BDDS office for your own records. Additionally, request receipt confirmation upon initial delivery of the application.

What other Community-Based Services are Available?

The local Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) District Office provides information, and referrals to various services for persons who are developmentally disabled. There are other programs and services for which you might be eligible. To learn about the other types of home and community-based waivers in Indiana, please refer to the fact sheet on Indiana’s Aged & Disabled and Traumatic Brain Injury Waivers. You may qualify for more than one type of waiver, but you may only be served by one waiver program at a time. Apply for all waivers for which you may be eligible.

Where to get More Information:

- Your local BDDS office is the point of entry for ICF/MR waivers and can answer your questions about those waivers. Call 1-800-545-7763 to identify your local office.
- The Division of Disability & Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) is a part of the Family & Social Services Administration. DDRS implements the ICF/MR Level of Care Waivers and other community-based services for people who have developmental disabilities. DDRS Website: <http://www.in.gov/fssa/2328.htm>

Additional Community Resources:

- The Arc of Indiana, www.arcind.org or 1-800-382-9100, provides information on legislative and administrative efforts related to the waivers.
- About Special Kids, www.aboutspecialkids.org or 1-800-964-4746, offers professionals and families with special needs access to information and resources about a variety of topics such as health insurance, special education, community resources and medical homes.
- Family Voices Indiana (Indiana’s Family to Family Health Information Center), www.fvindiana.org, is available to help answer your questions about waivers and provide support as you navigate the application process. This assistance is free and available in all parts of the state, call (844)323-4636 and ask to speak to a specialist in your area.

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated September 2020. Please check http://fvindiana.org/fact_sheets for the most recent edition.

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