



A Primer on Medicaid Waivers

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Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Waivers

- Provide funding for services for Medicaid eligible people with qualifying disabilities who want to live at home or in the community

- “Waive” placement in an institution:
 - ICF/DD
 - Nursing Home

- Individuals must meet:
 - Financial eligibility standards
 - Medical eligibility standards

Authority

- United States Government:
 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- State Government:
 - Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)/(Medicaid)

 - Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)

Florida's Medicaid Waivers

Florida Medicaid currently operates 15 home and community-based waivers for people with disabilities:

- Adult Cystic Fibrosis
- Adult Day Health Care
- Aged/Disabled Adult (ADA)
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Assisted Living for the Elderly (ALE)
- Channeling

Florida's Medicaid Waivers (con't.)

- Developmental Disabilities (DD 1)
- Developmental Disabilities Tier 2 (DD 2)
- Developmental Disabilities Tier 3 (DD 3)
- Developmental Disabilities Tier 4 (DD 4) a/k/a Family and Supported Living (FSL) Waiver

Note: Consumer Directed Care Plus Program is a 1915(j) state plan amendment not a waiver.

Florida's Medicaid Waivers (con't.)

- Familial Dysautonomia (FD)
- Model Waiver
- Nursing Home Diversion
- Project AIDS Care (PAC)
- Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury

Florida's Medicaid Waivers (con't.)

- For more information on these waivers, see the Medicaid Summary of Services available online at:
 - <http://ahca.myflorida.com>
 - Select “Site Menu” on the top
 - Select “Division of Medicaid”
 - Select “Summary of Services” in the header

Purpose of Medicaid Waivers

- Provide services for qualified people to AVOID institutional care
- Provide services to support individuals with disabilities in the least restrictive settings appropriate to their needs

Service Locations for Medicaid Waivers

- Supports and Services may be provided in various settings depending on the waiver:
 - Own Home or Family Home
 - Group Homes
 - Foster Homes
 - Supported Living Situations (own home with supports)
 - Residential Rehabilitation Center

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waivers

- Home and Community-Based Services Waiver (HCBS)
- Supports and services provided to qualified people to avoid institutional placement in an Intermediate Care Facility for individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Eligibility for DD Waivers

- The Agency for Persons with Disabilities operates the waivers
- DD Waiver Eligibility determination:
 - Medical – Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) Program Office
 - Financial – Dept. of Children and Families' (DCF) Economic Self-Sufficiency Services Office

DD Waiver Eligibility

- Age 3 or older
- Diagnosis of Developmental Disability made before the age of 18
 - Primary Disability of Mental Retardation (IQ of 59 or less)
OR
 - Primary Disability of Mental Retardation (IQ of 60-69) and a Handicapping Condition
OR

DD Waiver Eligibility

- To qualify, you must have a primary disability of one of the following:
 - Autism
 - Cerebral Palsy
 - Spina Bifida
 - Prader-Willi Syndrome

- You must also have substantial limitations in 3 life activities:
 - Self-Care
 - Learning
 - Mobility
 - Self-Direction Understanding & Use of Language
 - Capacity for Independent Living

DD Waiver Eligibility

- Waiver services must be medically necessary for a person to remain in the community
- Applicant or the legal guardian chooses to receive home and community-based supports and services

Disqualifying Situations

- Assets valued at over \$2,000
- Diagnosed with a Developmental Disability after age 18
- Under 3 years of age

DD Waiver Service Categories

- Support Coordination
- Employment and Training
- Individual and Family Supports
- Residential Services
- Environmental and Adaptive Equipment
- Therapeutic Supports
- Transportation
- Wellness Management

Support Coordination

- DD Waiver recipients **must** select a Support Coordinator
- Support Coordinators have a maximum caseload of 43 full time recipients
 - Children under 18 years old living in the family home must have limited support coordination
 - 2 limited cases = 1 full time case

What is a Support Coordinator?

- Paid professional who helps plan, develop, access, coordinate, and monitor supports and services
- Helps recipients complete an APD approved assessment and identify goals
- Helps develop Support Plan
- Submits Cost Plan for Prior Authorization
- Helps recipients secure supports and services to reach goals

Employment and Training

- Supported Employment
- Adult Day Training

Individual and Family Supports

- Companion
- In-Home Supports
- Respite
- Personal Care Assistance
- Supported Living Coaching

Residential Services

- Residential Habilitation Services
- Residential Nursing
- Special Medical Home Care

Environmental and Adaptive Equipment

- Durable Medical Equipment
 - Examples: ceiling lift, safety devices
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
 - Examples: ramps, widening of doorways, bathroom modifications
- Personal Emergency Response System

Therapeutic Supports

- Behavior Analysis
- Behavioral Assistant
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Specialized Mental Health Services
- Speech Therapy

Transportation

- Provides rides to and from home and community-based waiver services
- Provides rides to work if receiving supported employment coaching

Wellness Management

- Adult Dental
- Consumable Medical Supplies
 - Examples: adult disposable briefs, wipes, food supplements, feeding tubes and supplies, dressings for wound care
- Dietician
- Medication Review
- Private Duty Nursing
- Skilled Nursing

Developmental Disabilities Waiver Tiers

- Tier 1 -- Developmental Disabilities Waiver
- Tier 2 -- Developmental Disabilities Waiver
- Tier 3 -- Developmental Disabilities Waiver
- Tier 4 -- Developmental Disabilities Waiver a/k/a Family and Supported Living Waiver
- Transition and tier assignments took place in October 2008.

Developmental Disabilities Waiver – Tier 1

- Individuals with intensive medical or behavioral problems that are exceptional in intensity, duration, or frequency.
- All services available.
- No annual budget cap.

Developmental Disabilities - Tier 2

- Individuals who are authorized moderate level of support for standard residential habilitation services
- Individuals who are authorized minimal level of support for behavior focus residential habilitation services.
- Individuals in supported living who need greater than 6 hours per day of in-home support services.
- All services available.
- Total annual budget of no more than **\$55,000.**

Developmental Disabilities - Tier 3

- Individuals who are authorized for basic or minimal levels of residential habilitation services.
- All services available.
- Total annual budget of no more than **\$35,000**

Developmental Disabilities – Tier 4

a/k/a Family and Supported Living Waiver

- Individuals who live in their own homes or family homes.
- Total annual budget of no more than **\$14,972.**
- Services:
 - adult day training
 - behavior services
 - consumable medical supplies
 - durable medical equipment
 - supported employment coaching
 - environmental accessibility adaptation
 - personal emergency response system
 - transportation
 - supported living coaching
 - respite
 - support coordination
 - in-home supports

Be Informed

- “Navigating the Developmental Disabilities Program: You’re the Driver”
 - The Yellow Notebook – local APD office
- Attend Choice Counseling sessions – local APD office
- Attend Family Care Council meetings
- Contact Support Coordinator or local APD office

Consumer and Family Responsibilities

- Interview and select a Support Coordinator
- Develop a Support Plan with your Support Coordinator
- Interview and select providers – “Provider Directory” from your Support Coordinator or local APD office
- Work with Support Coordinator when you need help
- Verify payment to providers
- Change providers or services

Resources

- Developmental Disabilities Waiver Services Coverage and Limitations Handbook:
 - Defines DD Waiver provider qualifications
 - Lists requirements and limitations for all services
 - <http://mymedicaid-florida.com>
 - Select “Public Information for Providers”
 - Select “Provider Support” on the left
 - Select “Handbooks”
 - Select “Developmental Services”

Resources

- <http://apd.myflorida.com> – Agency for Persons with Disabilities
- <http://ahca.myflorida.com> – Agency for Health Care Administration
- <http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida> - Department of Children and Families, Access Florida to apply for Medicaid
- <http://www.fccflorida.org> – Family Care Council
- <http://www.fddc.org> – Florida Developmental Disabilities Council

For Further Information

- Agency For Persons With Disabilities (APD)
 - Contact your local Area office

- Family Care Council
 - <http://www.fccflorida.org>
 - Contact your local Area office

- Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)
 - Contact your local Area office

Thank you

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