



DD Services

*A Quick Handbook for Developmental Disability
Services*

Developmental Disability Needs

As the parent or primary caregiver of a child or individual with developmental disabilities, it is important for you to know as much as you can about your child's needs so that you can advocate for them and keep them in their home environment. In order to get the full array of services available to you, you have to know what to ask for. While there are a number of books that you can check-out from Bayou Land Families Helping Families (BLFHF) Lending Library to learn more, here are just a few key terms to get you started that you will often come across, or that you should ask for. **If you have any questions or would like assistance with any of the following services, please contact us at Bayou Land Families Helping Families (985)447-4461.**

- **Adaptive Equipment**- equipment needed to aid the individual in being as independent as possible. Examples include living aids, mobility aids, home furnishings and modifications, reading/writing/communication aids, or medical equipment.
- **Advocate**- A person who supports and represents the rights and interests of another individual in order to ensure the individual's full legal rights and access to service. While the parent or primary caregiver serves as an immediate advocate, sometimes a professional or legal advocate is needed.
- **Family Counseling**- Therapy in which the family is the focus of treatment to change interaction patterns at the family level.
- **Home Health Care**- Provides supportive medical services in your home. Examples include dressing care, feeding, IV care, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, nursing, dialysis, bathing, and other health-related services.
- **Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)**- For children birth to 3 years, a statement of child and family needs, outcomes to be achieved, and a plan of services necessary to meet these needs, including how often care is needed, intensity of care, location, methods of delivery, and payment arrangements. These services view the family as a whole instead of just the child in need to encourage and empower family decision making.
- **Individualized Service Plan (ISP)**- A written statement of services an agency provides to the person based on an interdisciplinary assessment. It should include: a list of goals arranged by priority, behavioral objectives that must be attained before the goal is achieved, teaching strategies that detail what the staff will do to assist the person in accomplishing new skills and/or behaviors, and evaluation procedures to determine whether the teaching strategies are assisting the person to accomplish objectives.
- **Recreation/Leisure**- Activities that individuals *choose* to engage in during free time. It is important because it helps to use free time, reduce inappropriate social behaviors, teach social and communication skills, and promote physical health.
- **Respite Care**- Services provided to families to enable them to take a break from the responsibility of caring for a member with a disability. That member may be a child, middle-aged adult, or elderly person. It is important to help alleviate stress within families with developmental disabilities.
- **Support Coordination**- To assist families in planning for medical, social, educational, and other services. This person is responsible for ensuring, documenting, and evaluating continuity of care for persons receiving health and/or human services.
- **Supported Employment**- Encourages adults with developmental disabilities to participate in meaningful, productive work through a series of day programs ranging from sheltered workshops to work activity centers to actual employment.
- **Supported living**- A coordinated system of supports for the individual with developmental disabilities designed to help that person make their own choices to live, work, learn, and actively participate with people without disabilities in the community. This system includes: life skills and vocational training, protective oversight, environmental adaptations, and physical assistance.
- **Transitioning**- The 3-5 years before the end of educational services when the family and school officials begin to plan for the child's future after school.
- **Transportation**- To give individuals with developmental disabilities access to services outside of the home.
- **Vocational Rehabilitation**- The state agency that provides medical, therapeutic, counseling, education, training, assessment, and other services needed to prepare people with developmental disabilities for work.

OCDD Services

Early Steps

For children ages birth to 3 to assist families in meeting the developmental needs of their child

Provides:

- Speech, Language, Occupational, and Physical Therapy
- Special Instruction
- Assistive Technology
- Service Coordination
- Medical, Health, and Nursing Services
- Psychology Services
- Family Training
- Nutritional Services
- Transportation

Flexible Family Funds

For children with severe or profound developmental disabilities from birth to 18

- Monthly Stipend paid to families to help with extraordinary costs

Individual and Family Support

Services provided are through contractual agreement with private provider agencies or individualized agreements

These services are available as a means of last resort. Before contacting OCDD, call BLFHF for other options at (985)447-4461.

- Respite Care
- Personal Assistance Services
- Specialized Clothing
- Dental and Medical Services
- Equipment and Supplies
- Communication Services
- Crisis Intervention
- Specialized Utility Costs
- Specialized Nutrition and Family Education

Home and Community Based supports/Waiver Services

Medicaid home and community-based waiver programs allow people greater flexibility to choose where they want to live and to use services and supports that best suit their needs. Services are provided must represent a least-restrictive treatment alternative. Each home and community-based waiver has specific service packages and eligibility requirements. Waiver opportunities are dependent upon funding, and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis through the Request for Services Registry.

- Waiver programs “waive” certain federal Medicaid regulations so that Louisiana citizens can try different programs to pay for health care services in Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- These programs make services available so that an individual can stay at home instead of living in an institutionalized residential setting, such as a nursing home or facility.
- The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) serves as the single point of entry into the developmental disabilities services system. **If you have not registered at OCDD, refer to the Developmental Disabilities Checklist in your Bayou Land Families Helping Families Welcome Packet**
- Once you have registered, you will be placed on ONE waiting list for all of the following waivers: Children’s Choice Waiver (CC), New Opportunities Waiver (NOW), Supports Waiver, and the Residential Options Waiver (ROW).
- The waiting list is currently at a 10 year wait.
- When Slots open up for a waiver, you will receive a call from Statistical Resources asking if you would like to receive services, which you can either accept, deny, or go inactive. If you:
 - Accept= place you on waiver services and remove you from waiting list
 - Deny= move your name to the bottom of the waiting list
 - Inactive= not receive services, but keep your spot on the waiting list until you file to become active again.
- Because the waiting list is currently 10 years, it may be in your best interest to accept any services you are offered!

Waivers

1. Children's Choice Waiver (CC)

- **Must be between the ages of birth through 18.**
- **Children that age out at 19 roll over into the next appropriate waiver.**
- **Offers supplemental support to children with developmental disabilities who currently live at home with their families or a foster family.**
- **Waiver participants are eligible for all medically necessary Medicaid services, including Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) screenings.**
- **This waiver package is designed for maximum flexibility. In addition to the medically necessary services, waiver services can also be used for:**
 - Support Coordination
 - Family Support Services
 - Center-Based Respite Care
 - Family Training
 - Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
 - Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
 - Aquatic Therapy
 - Art Therapy
 - Hippotherapy/Therapeutic Horseback Riding
 - Music Therapy
 - Sensory Integration
 - Housing Stabilization Transition Services
 - Housing Stabilization Services

2. New Opportunities Waiver (NOW)

- **Must be 3 years old or older**
- **Must have a developmental disability which manifested before age 22**
- **Must meet the IFC/DD level of care**
- **The mission of the NOW is to utilize the principles of self-determination to supplement the family and/or community supports while supporting dignity, quality of life, and security in the everyday lives of people while remaining in the community.**
- **Now includes an array of services aimed at assisting people to live as independently as possible, including:**
 - Center-Based Respite
 - Community Integration and Development
 - Day Habilitation and Transportation
 - Employment Related Training
 - Environmental Accessibilities Adaptations
 - Housing Stabilization Services
 - Housing Stabilization Transition Services
 - Individualized and Family Support (IFS) Service Day & Night
 - One-Time Transitional Services
 - Personal Emergency Response System
 - Professional Services
 - Self-Direction Option
 - Skilled Nursing Services
 - Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
 - Substitute Family Care
 - Supported Employment and Transportation
 - Supported Living

3. Supports Waiver

- **Must be 18 years or older**
- **Have a developmental disability which manifested before age 22**
- **Meet the ICF/DD level of care**
- **It provides options and meaningful opportunities through vocational and community inclusion for individuals who are 18 +**
- **Participants are eligible for all medically necessary Medicaid services, as well as:**
 - Support Coordination (required case management)
 - Supported Employment
 - Prevocational
 - Day Habilitation
 - Respite
 - Habilitation
 - Permanent Supportive Housing Stabilization Transition
 - Permanent Supporting Housing Stabilization
 - Personal Emergency Response System

4. Residential Options Waiver (ROW)

- Eligibility for ROW is rare. For more information, visit <http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/142>.

***Before accepting waiver services, it may be helpful to visit the common questions at <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/142>.**

Other Medicaid Eligible Services

Support Coordination

Children from birth to age 21 with disabilities who are Medicaid eligible and are on the waiver waiting list can receive Support Coordination. Children who are not on the waiting list may also qualify for this service if it is medically necessary (a physician's prescription is required).

Available through Statistical Resources.

Personal Care Services

Children from birth to age 21 who are Medicaid eligible may qualify for Personal Care Services if these services are medically necessary (a physician's prescription is required).

This program does NOT cover medical tasks, such as medication administration, tracheostomy care, feeding tubes or catheters, but those services are covered under the Medicaid Home Health Program or Extended Home Health.

Available through Department of Health and Hospitals.

This program provides a personal care attendant to children who need assistance with:

- Eating
- Bathing
- Dressing
- Personal Hygiene

Long Term-Personal Care Services

Adults age 21+ who are Medicaid eligible may qualify for Long Term-Personal Care Services.

Available through Louisiana Options in Long Term Care.

This program provides qualifying individuals help with activities of daily living such as:

- Eating
- Bathing
- Dressing
- Grooming
- Transferring
- Light Housekeeping
- Shopping
- Preparing Meals

The Advocacy Center provides free legal services to people with disabilities in Louisiana. If you have trouble getting Medicaid services, the Advocacy Center may be able to help.

Call (800) 960-7705 (Voice or via 711 Relay) or email advocacycenter@advocacyla.org.