



## Family Supports Waiver Journey

### *Part 1: Beginning Your Journey*



Begin your journey by contacting your local Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) field office. The contact information for each of these offices is listed at <https://secure.in.gov/fssa/files/BDDS.pdf>

If you think your child meets Level of Care (LOC) and priority criteria for a Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Waiver, discuss your situation with the BDDS district office. They will assist you in the application process for the CIH Waiver.

To apply for the Family Supports Waiver, simply call the BDDS office and tell them that you'd like to apply.

An Intake Specialist will ask some basic information and subsequently mail you a packet of information to complete.

The packet will include the following:

- AUTHORIZATION FOR DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND HEALTH INFORMATION for the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) office
- APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
- CONFIRMATION OF DIAGNOSIS (to be completed by the individual's physician)

Other forms may need to be included, as well, depending on the individual's diagnosis and/or situation. Your BDDS intake specialist will advise you of any additional information or forms to include with your application packet.



Speed your way to filling out the forms as requested. Application is received by date, and the program operates on a first-come/first-served basis.

Once you have returned the application, you will hear shortly from an Intake Specialist, who schedule a time to meet with you and the individual. This appointment may take place at your regional BDDS office, or the BDDS intake specialist can come to your home at your request. At

that appointment, the Intake Specialist will ask a series of questions to you and the individual who will be served to determine if the individual meets LOC.

The LOC is determined by the presence of a developmental disability, or closely related disability, which results in substantial functional limitations in at least 3 of the following areas of major life activities:

- Self-care.
- Understanding and use of language.
- Learning.
- Mobility.
- Self-direction.
- Capacity for independent living.

The Intake Specialist will then take all the information gathered through the appointment and determine if the individual meets LOC. You will receive a letter stating if the individual meets LOC. That letter will include: a Letter of Eligibility, which includes a review of the individual's information (Eligible Conditions, Duration, Age of Onset, Care Treatment and Limitations), as well as if the individual meets criteria for Developmental Disabilities Services. If the individual meets LOC, a supporting letter of placement onto the waiver waiting list will be included. Directions for appealing the decision will also be included.

Note that for children under the age of 6, provisional eligibility may apply, and LOC will be determined upon targeting (when a waiver slot is available).



It is very important to **keep copies of all documents** that you submit and receive regarding the waiver along with notes of contact with the BDDS office (or other agency).

You can confirm and update your child's information by logging onto the BDDS [Waiting List Portal](#). If you have questions or concerns, you can contact the BDDS office at any time. Be sure to contact them with any changes or updates in your contact information.

You may want to apply for Medicaid or Medicaid Disability for your child at this time. Household income and assets are considered for eligibility at this point. If your child meets the requirements for Medicaid, s/he may qualify for Medicaid Prior Authorization (PA) services, which are support services that may be used while waiting for the waiver. There are other services that can be used for limited support while the individual waits for the waiver.

## *Part 2: Completing Your Journey*

You've waited and now you have received the "Target Letter" – that is a letter stating that the individual has now been "targeted" to receive a waiver slot.



A response is required to complete the process. You can call the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) office and say "YES" or return the letter to BDDS within 30 days after checking "YES" that the individual is interested in receiving the waiver. Once BDDS has received the response, an Intake Specialist will contact you.

Along with the targeting letter will be a **Confirmation of Diagnosis** form that needs to be completed an individual's physician (MD or DO) involved in the child's care. The physician needs to return the letter to the BDDS office within 21 days of the target letter date.



Your assigned Intake Specialist from BDDS will contact you for any needed information during the waiver targeting process and occasionally check on progress. The Intake Specialist will assist you with any problems you may encounter until a case manager begins working with the individual.

BDDS may ask for supporting medical information, school records, and request additional testing through one of their contracted providers. You will not need to pay for any evaluations that may be needed to determine Level of Care (LOC). (Although LOC was determined at time of application, you child will be assessed for LOC again upon targeting.)

Once BDDS has received the information needed and Level of Care has been determined eligible, you will be given a list of case management companies to choose from. You must indicate your choice of case management company and return the form to BDDS. BDDS will create a Cost Comparison Budget, or CCB for just case management services.

Once the CCB for case management is completed and the BDDS intake specialist specifies the system has been updated, you can apply for Medicaid if you don't already have it. If your child has Medicaid, the recipient's category will be changed to one that is compatible with the waiver.

To apply for Medicaid, you can:

- contact the local Division of Family Resources (DFR) or apply online at: <https://www.ifcem.com/CitizenPortal/application.do>
- To locate your local DFR see: [http://www.in.gov/fssa/files/DFR\\_Map\\_and\\_County\\_List.pdf](http://www.in.gov/fssa/files/DFR_Map_and_County_List.pdf)
- Apply by phone by calling

Within approximately a week of applying for Medicaid, a representative from the DFR will contact you and request an interview. You may choose to meet at your local DFR office or choose to participate in the interview by phone. You will be given a specific time for the interview, and it is very important that you attend the appointment at the specified time. Expect the appointment to last from 30-45 minutes. The individual being targeted does not need to attend this meeting unless they are 18.



Note that if the targeted individual is under the age of 18, only the income of the individual is counted in applying for Medicaid. Senate Bill 30 states that parental income is disregarded in determining eligibility for children under 18yr who are waiver recipients. Because of this, parents and other household members' incomes are not counted when determining eligibility for Medicaid. If you are seeking retroactive Medicaid to cover the individual for the previous 90 days prior to the Medicaid application date, then income/assets of the parents and household are counted.

If you encounter any problems during the Medicaid application process, you should contact your BDDS Intake Specialist.

Once Medicaid is in place, BDDS will send the referral to your chosen case management company for intake.

The case manager will schedule a time to meet with the individual and/or the family – to develop a Person-Centered Individualized Service Plan (PCISP). This plan will guide you and your case manager in determining appropriate services and supports. Once you have chosen the waiver service (s) the case manager will give you a Pick List of providers to choose from. The family may interview provider companies and staff to see who might best fit the individual's needs. It is important to remember that individuals and families have choice of services, providers, and staff. You may change any of these at any time.

Services available under the Family Support Waiver include:

- Adult Day Services
- Behavioral Support Services
- Case Management
- Community Based Habilitation - Group
- Community Based Habilitation - Individual
- Extended Services
- Facility Based Habilitation - Group
- Facility Based Habilitation - Individual
- Facility Based Support Services
- Family and Caregiver Training
- Intensive Behavioral Intervention
- Music Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Participant Assistance and Care
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Physical Therapy
- Psychological Therapy
- Prevocational Services
- Recreational Therapy
- Respite
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Speech /Language Therapy
- Transportation
- Workplace Assistance

The individual can utilize, or “purchase” any of the above services for a total budget of \$17,300. Keep in mind that case management also is to be paid for out this budget. Case Management is the only required service.



The case manager will present PCISP to DDRS, and this will result in a Notice of Action (NOA). Once the NOA is approved by DDRS, the case manager will contact the provider to make them aware of the individual’s choice and needs through the service plan. The provider agency will then arrange training and care for the individual and services can begin.

There are several safeguards in place to assure that the individual receives safe and appropriate care. Be sure to make note of these as they are explained by the case manager and provider company.

Congratulations! You have reached your destination!

*If you receive information that differs from this fact sheet, please contact us so we can see if you were given misinformation, or if there have been changes to the system. Phone: 844-323-4636 or email: [info@fvindiana.org](mailto:info@fvindiana.org)*

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