

To learn more about these and other programs, contact **Indiana Family to Family**. We will assist you as you navigate health care systems and services, especially those available to children and youth who require additional health and educational support.

844-323-4636
(844-F2F-INFO)

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Applying for the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Program for a Minor Child

Family Supports Waiver (FSW) is sometimes inadequate to serve a minor child's needs. If this is the case, application to the Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) program may be appropriate through one of the routes discussed below.

Entrance into the CIH program can occur if the individual meets priority criteria of one of the federally-approved categories and the Bureau of Disabilities Services (BDS) determines no other services or placements are available and appropriate.

Priority criteria includes, but is not limited to:

- Loss of primary caregiver where no other caregiver is available
- Caregiver over 80 years of age where no other caregiver is available
- Transitioning from a facility to a community setting
- Extraordinary health and safety risk of the individual

If the minor child is already receiving FSW services, then the family may ask the waiver case manager to assist them with the application process for the CIH waiver. The care manager and all waiver service providers should work together and provide information and support to the family during the CIH waiver application process.

If an individual is not already receiving Home-Based and Community Services (HBCS) and the family is interested in applying for a waiver (either FSW or CIH), then they should contact their local BDS office to begin the application process. See the state map at (<https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/developmental-disability-services/bureau-of-developmental-disabilities-services/>) or call 1-800-545-7763 to find your local office.

For more information on applications and eligibility requirements, see our [Fact Sheet: "Medicaid Waivers: Indiana's Family Supports Waiver & Community Integration Habilitation Waivers"](#).

The most common reason for seeking a CIH waiver for a minor child is to address behavioral needs due to a developmental disability. In this case, the application process for the CIH waiver for a minor child includes completing a CIH Request Form **or** by completing the questionnaire: *Emergency Intervention Strategies for Minor Children with Developmental Disabilities*. Contact your local BDS District Office to receive the appropriate forms. BDS will use the information on the form to assess and determine what supports and services may be available to the child. The Division of Child Services (DCS) may be brought in for support and/or additional assessment. Though this may be understandably alarming, this is necessary to possibly fund additional services and supports through other state agencies and programs, such as the Children's Mental Health Initiative.

When completing the *Emergency Intervention Strategies for Minor Children with Developmental Disabilities* questionnaire, families/guardians should be honest and thorough. It is very important to give a complete picture of the needs of the child being evaluated for the CIH waiver. When describing the needs of the child being evaluated, consider including what types of formal and informal supports have been used successfully and unsuccessfully and why. If possible, collateral information from the school or from others should be attached to the questionnaire.



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Completed forms requesting utilization of the CIH program should be sent to the local BDS office, where they will undergo review. BDS will notify the family of the decision to approve or deny, as well as the recommendations for supports that can be offered when appropriate.

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Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated June 2024. Please check <https://www.inf2f.org/fact-sheets.html> for the most recent edition.

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