

Medicaid Waivers

Indiana's Family Supports Waiver & Community Integration Habilitation Waivers

Apply for a Waiver:



Online at the
[BDDS Gateway](#)

or

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

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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 various types of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver programs, including: medical waivers (see our [fact sheet Medicaid Waivers: A&D and TBI](#)) and waivers for individuals with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities (supported through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Service or BDDS). There are two BDDS/Indiana Medicaid Waivers serving individuals with ICF/IID Level of Care - the **Family Supports Waiver (FSW)** and the **Community Integration & Habilitation (CIH) Waiver**.

How is Eligibility Determined?

In order to qualify for the **FSW** or **CIH** Waiver, an individual must have a developmental disability or related condition with proven onset prior to age of 22 (and expected to continue indefinitely) and must also meet the level of care needed for admission to an Intermediate Care Facility for those with an intellectual disability, known as ICF/IID Level of Care. The ICF/IID Level of Care means that the person has substantial functional limitations in at least three of six major areas of life, which are: self-care, learning, self-direction, capacity for independent living, understanding and use of language, and mobility.

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/IID Level of Care waivers. The ICF/IID Level of Care is based upon the confirmation of diagnosis form completed by the physician, the completion of the Level of Care Screening Instrument, 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.

Additionally, the **CIH** waiver is also a needs-based waiver, which means that an individual must not only meet the ICF/IID Level of Care, but also meet 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.

When determining Medicaid eligibility for a child under the age of 18 who is applying for a waiver, only the income/assets of the child are taken into consideration (NOT the parental/household income or assets). 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 BDDS District Office and requesting an Application for Developmental Disabilities Services. 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 locate your local office. Waiver application forms may also be accessed online by following this link: <https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/information-for-individuals-and-families/forms/>.

An online option to apply for the **FSW** and all BDDS services (that can be both filled out and submitted online) is available at the BDDS Gateway: <https://bddsgateway.fssa.in.gov/> The online application requests the same information as the paper application. The Confirmation of Diagnosis form will be filled out separately by a physician, and can be mailed or delivered to the local BDDS office.

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Priority Criteria:

There are a few priority criteria categories for the **FSW** in addition to those allocated for the **CIH** waiver. One category under the **FSW** allows for priority status 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 (<https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/information-for-individuals-and-families/bdds-waitlist-portal/>) 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/IID 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/IID Level of Care Waivers and other community-based services for people who have developmental disabilities. DDRS Website: <https://www.in.gov/fssa/ddrs/index.html>

Additional Community Resources:

- Indiana Family to Family (<https://www.inf2f.org>, 1-844-323-4636) has several other resources available (<https://www.inf2f.org/health-care-financing.html>) to help you navigate the waiver process, including:
 - **Waiver Journey Flow Chart**
 - **Family Support Waiver (FSW) Journey**
 - **Family Support Waiver (FSW) Journey Continues**
- The Arc of Indiana (<http://www.arcind.org>, 1-800-382-9100) provides information on legislative and administrative efforts related to the waivers.

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated June 2023. Please check <https://www.inf2f.org/fact-sheets.html> for the most recent edition.

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