

The State of Indiana is always striving to improve home and community based services, commonly called Medicaid Waivers, for individuals with disabilities and their families. Since this guide was published, the state has made changes to waivers through the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS). These changes include:

Application Process

- BDDS has created an online application portal called the BDDS Gateway. This allows individuals to apply for services at a time that is convenient for them. Individuals can apply for BDDS services at bddsgateway.fssa.in.gov. A representative from the local BDDS office should be in contact within 15 days after an application is submitted. If someone has applied for services and has not heard from the BDDS office within 15 days, contact the BDDS office directly to ensure BDDS received the application and to move forward with the process.

Priority Status

- Individuals applying for a Family Supports Waiver will generally go on a statewide waiting list for services. However, there are two groups who can request priority status to begin receiving services sooner.
 - Individuals between 18 and 24 years of age who have exited high school can request priority status. They will need to provide a copy of their high school diploma, High School Equivalency (HSE), Certificate of Completion, or Certificate of Attendance.
 - The children of active duty service members of veterans can also request priority status regardless of age. Individuals will need to provide a copy of the service members DD-214 form.

Income and Budget Changes

- In 2021, the Indiana General Assembly authorized a 14% rate increase for BDDS home and community based services to increase pay for Direct Support Professionals. To ensure individuals did not lose services, the General Assembly also authorized an increase in the cap for the Family Supports Waiver. The new annual cap for FSW services is \$19,614.
- Income limits have also changed for the waiver. In 2021, the maximum SSI benefit for a single, non-blind individual is \$794 per month, making Medicaid Waiver financial eligibility for the CIH, Family Supports or Aged and Disabled Waiver \$2,382 per month and for the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver \$1,191 per month.

Waiver Redesign

BDDS is committed to ensuring Medicaid Waivers assist individuals in achieving their vision of a good life. In an effort to modernize and improve services, BDDS has engaged families and people with disabilities in a project to redesign Medicaid Waivers. While this extensive project slowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, redesign efforts continue. To learn more about the current waiver redesign project and status, visit the Waiver Redesign page at in.gov/fssa/ddrs/bdds-waiver-redesign.

Updated Links

Individuals can check their status on the waiting list or update their contact information by going to the Waitlist portal at ddrsprovider.fssa.in.gov/BDDS/ConsumerInfo/InfoSearch.aspx.

Information about BDDS can be found at in.gov/fssa/ddrs/developmental-disability-services.

Information about Vocational Rehabilitation Services can be found at in.gov/fssa/ddrs/rehabilitation-employment/vocational-rehabilitation-employment.

Information about the Division of Aging and the variety of services they provide can be found at in.gov/fssa/da.

Children's Special Health Care Services can be found at in.gov/health/cshcs.

Information on CHOICE services can be found at in.gov/fssa/da/community-and-home-options-to-institutional-care-for-the-elderly-and-disabled

WIC information can be found at in.gov/health/wic.

The Long Term Care Ombudsman oversees long term care facilities including nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF-IIDs) including group homes. Information can be found at in.gov/ombudsman/long-term-care-ombudsman/overview.

Information on First Steps can be found at in.gov/fssa/firststeps/index.html.

Information and resources from the Indiana Department of Education can be found at in.gov/doe

Information about Independent Living Centers can be found at in.gov/fssa/ddrs/rehabilitation-employment/independent-living-services-program-centers-and-statewide-council.

The Arc of Indiana
143 W. Market Street, Suite 200
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-977-2375 800-382-9100
arcind.org