

Family Supports Waiver

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Family Supports Waiver?

The Family Supports Waiver program will provide individual and family supports for children birth to 21 with developmental disabilities on the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Waiting List. The new program is designed to provide services and supports to families and children with developmental disabilities in the home and/or community after school, nights, weekends, and during summer months. The program was developed based on input from individuals on the DDA Waiting List and their families, the Family Supports Waiver Steering Committee, the Developmental Disabilities Coalition survey and recommendations, independent consultants' national research, and public regional input forums.

The goals for the Family Supports Waiver include providing:

- Innovative service options aimed at providing supports that build on the Community of Practice for Support Families of individuals with Developmental Disabilities
- Individual and family self-direction opportunities
- Flexibility for individuals and families to move dollar amounts among line items within their approved person-centered plan budget to meet the emerging and reoccurring needs of the child and family
- Short term exceptions to the overall budget caps based on exceptional needs

Additional information can be viewed on the DDA website at:

https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/DDA_FAMILY_SUPPORTS_Waiver.aspx

2. What services will be offered through the Family Supports Waiver?

The following services have been proposed for the new Family Supports Waiver. For more information regarding the definition and scope of each service, please see information on the DDA website or click the service link below:

- [ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES](#)
- [BEHAVIORAL SUPPORT SERVICES](#)
- [COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND NAVIGATION](#)
- [ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS](#)
- [ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATIONS](#)
- [FAMILY CAREGIVER TRAINING AND EMPOWERMENT SERVICES](#)
- [FAMILY AND PEER MENTORING SUPPORTS](#)
- [INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY DIRECTED GOODS AND SERVICE](#)
- [PARTICIPANT EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ADVOCACY SUPPORTS](#)
- [PERSONAL SUPPORTS](#)
- [RESPITE CARE SERVICES](#)
- [TRANSPORTATION](#)
- [VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS](#)

Family Supports Waiver

Frequently Asked Questions

3. Who is eligible to be in the Family Supports Waiver?

The Family Supports Waiver program will provide individual and family supports for children birth to 21 with developmental disabilities on the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Waiting List.

- All waiver participants must meet the criteria for developmental disability in accordance with Annotated Code of Maryland, Health - General Article, Section 7-701 (e) which is comparable to the federal definition found at 45 CFR 1385.3.
- All waiver participants will: 1) Need support afterschool, evenings, weekends, and/or during school breaks, including summer time; 2) Be assessed for their level of service need with consideration of available natural and community support to determine if waiver services will support their health and safety needs; and 3) Not be enrolled in another Medicaid 1915(c) waiver or PACE (a Medicaid capitated managed care program that includes long-term care).
- Eligible participants who are ages 21 and under and still eligible to receive services through IDEA shall have a portion of their daily support and supervision needs covered by the schools. The waiver does not provide services during school hours.

4. How do I apply for the Family Supports Waiver?

If you are on the DDA Waiting List, no action needs to be taken at this time. We will contact the first 400 individuals on the Waiting List based on priority category and date of application once the Family Supports Waiver has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). A DDA Coordinator of Community Services will then assist the individual and family with the waiver application process.

If you are not on the DDA wait list, but are interested in participating in the Family Supports Waiver, you must complete a DDA Eligibility Application and send it to the DDA Regional Office that supports the county you live in. The Regional Office will send you a letter that says if you are eligible to receive services and the category that you fit in that allows you to receive services. The categories are: Crisis Resolution, Crisis Prevention, and Current Request. Individuals are then put on the DDA Waiting List and contacted when a slot is available for the waiver.

For more information regarding the DDA application, please see information on the DDA website at: <https://dda.health.maryland.gov/Pages/eligibility.aspx> or click the service link below:

[Click Here for the Eligibility Application](#) (PDF)

5. Can I apply to the Family Supports Waiver now?

No, the Family Supports Waiver is expected to begin on January 1, 2018, pending the federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval. No applications are being accepted at this time.

6. How many people can be in the Family Supports Waiver?

The Family Supports waiver is designed to support the needs of 400 individuals.

Family Supports Waiver

Frequently Asked Questions

- 7. How will DDA determine who will participate in the Family Supports Waiver?**
Once the Family Supports Waiver is approved, DDA will contact the first 400 eligible individuals (birth to 21) on the DDA Wait List. A DDA Coordinator of Community Services will then assist the individual and family with the waiver application process.
- 8. Are individuals in REM excluded from the Family Supports Waiver?**
No, individuals receiving supports under the Rare and Expensive Case Management (REM) program will not be excluded from the new program. REM is part of the State's Health Choice State Plan program. Individuals will be able to receive both supports under the REM program and services under the new Family Supports Waiver.
- 9. Can individuals in the Model Waiver, Autism Waiver, or Community Pathways Waiver be enrolled in the new Family Supports Waiver?**
No, Federal requirements prohibit individuals from being enrolled in more than one home and community-based waiver program. Therefore, individuals and families will need to make a decision to which waiver program best meets their needs.
- 10. What if my loved one's and family's needs exceed the scope of the Family Supports Waiver?**
If your loved one needs exceed the scope of the Family Supports Waiver, the individual will be considered for the Community Services waiver (expected to begin in January 2018, pending CMS approval), or the Community Pathways waiver.
- 11. Is there a limit to the amount of services I can receive through the Family Supports Waiver?**
Yes, each participant in the Family Supports Waiver will receive a budget of \$12,000 to utilize the services, as they see fit, based on the individual's assessed needs. The waiver budget is capped at \$12,000. There will be a short-term exceptions to the overall budget caps based on exceptional needs.
- 12. Do I need to fill out an application if I am already on the DDA Waiting List?**
No, Individuals on the DDA's Waiting List do not need to take any action at this time. We will contact the first 400 eligible individuals (birth to 21) on the DDA Wait List once the program is approved. A DDA Coordinator of Community Services will then assist the individual and family with the waiver application process. Individuals and families may contact the DDA Regional Office to confirm their placement on the DDA Waiting List.
- 13. What if my needs have changed since being placed on the DDA Waiting List?**
Individuals and families should inform their Coordinator of Community Services or contact the DDA Regional Office to share information about current needs, status, and update contact information.
- 14. How can I share input on the Family Supports Waiver federal application?**
Public comments can be submitted to wfb.dda@maryland.gov through July 31, 2017.