

# Developmental Disabilities Administration

## Low Intensity Support Services

### Frequently Asked Questions\*

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#### What are Low Intensity Support Services (LISS)?

Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) are grants up to \$2,000 to assist adults with developmental disability and families with a child with developmental disability with purchasing services and/or items to address needs. The LISS program was designed to provide for the needs of a child or an adult with a developmental disability living in the home, or to support an adult with developmental disability living in the community.

#### Who can apply?

Maryland residents who are eligible for DDA individual support services may apply. A family member or an authorized representative may apply on the behalf of an eligible individual.

#### What are the eligibility criteria for individual support services?

An applicant is eligible for LISS if he or she meets one of the following two sets of criteria:

1. A child or an adult who is living in his or her own home and has a severe chronic disability that:
  - a. Is attributable to a physical or mental impairment, other than the sole diagnosis of a mental illness, or to a combination of physical and mental impairments, and
  - b. Is likely to continue indefinitely; OR
2. An adult who is living in the community and has a severe chronic disability that:
  - a. Is attributable to a physical or mental impairment, other than the sole diagnosis of a mental illness, or to a combination of physical and mental impairments, and
  - b. Is likely to continue indefinitely.

For purposes of these criteria, “impairment” means intellectual disability or a “related condition” (*i.e.*, similar to intellectual disability).

#### How do I apply for a LISS grant?

Individuals or their authorized representatives complete an LISS Random Selection Application and submit it to the LISS provider that serves the county where they live. Applications are available for download on the DDA/LISS website at <http://dda.dhmdh.maryland.gov/SitePages/liss.aspx>.

#### When do I apply?

Beginning July 1, 2015, the LISS agencies will accept the Random Selection Applications. Applications are accepted **only** by mail or hand delivery, at one of the following locations:

Maryland Community Connection 4401 Nicole Drive Lanham, Maryland 20706 1-877-622-6688

- Serves Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and St. Mary’s counties

Penn Mar Human Services 310 Old Freeland Road Freeland, Maryland 21053 1-877-282-8202

- Serves Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard and Washington counties.

United Needs and Abilities 688 East Main Street Salisbury, Maryland 21804 1-800-776-5694

- Serves Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties



**FAXED AND EMAILED APPLICATIONS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

**How can I get help with the LISS process?**

If you need assistance, please contact one of the above-listed LISS providers to help with the application process.

**Does everyone who applies receive a grant?**

No. The program has limited funding. DDA conducts a random selection to choose the applicants who may be eligible for funding. Please understand that selection does not guarantee approval.

**Does the LISS program fund previously received items and services?**

Services and items received in the current fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) may be eligible for funding this year.

**Why did the program change?**

The program changed to simplify the application process and to increase the number of individuals served.

**What are some of the permitted uses for LISS funding?**

- Assistive Technology
- Barrier Removal
- Childcare
- Employment-related services
- Housing Adaptations
- Individual and Family Counseling
- Personal Care
- Specialized equipment
- Training and support for self-advocacy
- Attendant care
- Camp (youth & adult)
- Daycare
- Health services
- Identification services
- Medical equipment purchase, rental, and repair
- Respite
- Therapeutic Services
- Transportation assistance

**Services and items that are NOT eligible for purchase with LISS funding include the following.**

1. Treatment that is experimental, not permitted by the Maryland Health Occupations Licensing Boards, or not approved by the FDA are excluded.
2. Unless pre-approved by the Administration, the Program does not provide or cover the following:
  - a. Housing adaptations or improvements to an individual’s home that add to the home’s total square footage; and
  - b. Out-of-State services
3. The Program does not provide or cover the following:
  - a. Cash;
  - b. Case management;
  - c. Gift cards;
  - d. Presents;
  - e. Toys, except for therapeutic purposes;
  - f. Tuition;
  - g. Vacations; and
  - h. Vehicle gas, tires, registration, or payment for violations such as tickets and fines.

*\*Please see the DDA website for more information about the LISS program: <http://dda.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/liss.aspx>.*