

**An Overview of**  
**Home & Community Based Services**  
**for**  
**Individuals with Intellectual & Developmental**  
**Disabilities in Ohio**



This booklet was prepared by Disability Advocacy Alliance. For comprehensive information and eligibility determination contact the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities or your County Board of DD.

**[www.DisabilityAdvocacyAlliance.org](http://www.DisabilityAdvocacyAlliance.org)**

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) give individuals the option of accessing supports in their homes or other community settings. All Medicaid-eligible participants of Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Service System are entitled to a placement in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF). Eligible individuals may waive this entitlement to receive community-based "waiver" services.

Waivers are often targeted to address the needs of a specific group. States choose a maximum number of individuals that can be served under a particular waiver program and may establish wait lists when waiver capacity has been reached.

This booklet gives families a basic understanding of the waiver programs available in Ohio's Developmental Disabilities Service System. Families are encouraged to contact their County Board of Developmental Disabilities or the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) for comprehensive information and eligibility determination.

### **What DD Waivers Are Available in Ohio?**

The State of Ohio offers three DD waiver programs, each centered around a specific need:

#### **◆ *Self-Empowered Life Funding or SELF Waiver***

The SELF waiver is designed to allow eligible individuals to engage in self-direction, enabling them to direct where and how they receive services. Individuals must be willing and capable of self-directing at least one waiver service.

#### **◆ *Level One Waiver***

The Level One Waiver is designed to help individuals live in their communities while maximizing the natural supports available to them.

#### **◆ *Individual Options Waiver***

The Individual Options waiver is designed to be Ohio's most comprehensive waiver with the highest funding limit.

Information including services available under each waiver can be found on the DODD's website at this link: <http://dodd.ohio.gov/IndividualFamilies/ServiceFunding/Pages/WaiverTypes.aspx>

### **How do I access waiver services?**

Individuals can contact their County Board of DD for a needs assessment. Immediacy and level of need determine if individuals are given a waiver, placed on a waiting list, and/or are offered alternative services to meet an individual's needs.

## **What alternative services are available?**

Medicaid-eligible individuals have an entitlement to services in an ICF that provides 24-hour supervision, personal care, transportation, and case management from a Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional (QIDP). Room and board is also included. Depending upon an individual's treatment plan, 24-hour nursing, therapy, a psychologist, a nutritionist, and the oversight of a medical director may be included, among other supports. All ICF residents receive active treatment – a constant and continuous habilitation plan overseen by a team of specialists.

Depending upon availability, individuals may also be offered non-Medicaid supports funded by County Board levy dollars as alternatives to a waiver.

## **Where are waiver services provided?**

Waiver services fund in-home supports (i.e. personal care, respite, and other services). These services are provided in the family home, a licensed HCBS waiver home, or an apartment/house that is rented or owned by the individual. Individuals may choose to live with roommates. Regulations require that the maximum number of individuals living in a home not exceed four. Waivers also fund “shared living” where an individual lives with a family.

Individuals living in HCBS settings also use waivers to access sheltered workshop and day habilitation programs. Waivers fund transportation to these programs, to community employment, and to appointments, shopping, and recreational outings.

Waiver services are offered a la carte, meaning individuals choose from a menu of available services. Each service is separately contracted. Individuals can choose their provider(s) of services from all qualified and willing providers.

A County Board Service and Support Administrator (SSA) will aid individuals and their families in searching for providers and housing. The SSA also works with the individual, guardian, and providers of services to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP).

## **What financial responsibilities do I have on the waiver?**

The waiver funds services that an individual chooses under the waiver program. Room and board (i.e. rent, utilities, food, and living expenses) are paid by the individual receiving services.

Individuals are given a budget for their waiver under which the cost of all services must be kept. Individuals may pay a patient liability if costs should exceed the waiver budget.

## **How do I find housing and providers?**

As noted above, the SSA can assist in finding housing and providers. Provider lists are available on County Board of DD websites. DODD also maintains provider lists by county and a vacancy list for licensed waiver homes at the following link: <http://providersearch.dodd.ohio.gov/>