# Medicaid (Home and Community-Based) Waivers

#### What are Medicaid Waivers?

Waivers provide funding for children with disabilities to receive support and services in the home and community rather than in an institutional setting. Indiana has two types of Waiver Programs. One type, for children and adults whose needs are primarily medical in nature, is called the Nursing Facility Level of Care Waiver and includes two Waivers - the Aged and Disabled Waiver (A&D) and the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver (TBI). The other type, for children and adults with developmental disabilities, is the Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) Level of Care Waiver. There are three Indiana Medicaid Waivers requiring ICF/MR Level of Care - the Autism Waiver, the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver, and the Support Services (SS) Waiver.

F2F Tip: Many different names and terms are used when talking about waivers. Keep a record of what you apply for and whom you speak to about the process.

## How is eligibility determined?

To be eligible for the A&D or TBI waiver a child must need nursing facility level of care. To be eligible for the Autism waiver a child must have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and a need for ICF/MR level of care. Children who have a developmental disability and a need for ICF/MR level of care are eligible for the DD waiver. Any child who is eligible for the Autism or DD waiver is eligible for the SS waiver. Family income and assets are NOT considered when determining eligibility for a child under the age of eighteen.

F2F Tip: If you think your child may be eligible and you are turned away or not supported in the process of applying, ask to speak to a supervisor to seek clarification on eligibility.

## How do I apply for a Waiver?

If your child qualifies for the Nursing Facility Level of Care waiver you can apply by calling the local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for an application. If your child has a developmental disability (DD) and/or a diagnosis of Autism you may apply for Waiver services by calling the local Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) District Office and requesting an Application for Long-Term Care Services. See the state maps (on the back) to identify your local offices.

F2F Tip: Many children are eligible for more than one type of waiver. Apply for all waivers for which your child is eligible.

## > How long is the waiting list?

The Nursing Level of Care waivers currently have a waiting list that is less than a year. The ICF/MR waiting lists are several years long.

F2F Tip: Waiting lists change often. If your child is in need of a waiver apply as soon as possible and inquire what date of application is currently being served.

## Why should I apply now?

It is helpful for families with children who are likely to be impacted by their disabilities for a lifetime to apply as soon as possible for waivers. For some families with children who have a Nursing Level of Care, waiver services can be helpful and received relatively quickly. For families with children who have an ICF/MR level of care, applying now provides a greater likelihood that supports will be available as your child gets older. Applications can also help the state government and service systems plan for and be ready to meet needs in years to come.

F2F Tip: If your child qualifies for an A&D waiver, consider applying for and being on the ICF/MR waiting list

## What do I need to do to stay on the waiting list?

You will need to update the BDDS and/or AAA office whenever your contact information, including phone or address, changes.

F2F Tip: Systems and programs change frequently. Be on the alert for information about changes to the waiver program. The F2F listserve is one place many parents keep up to date.

## > What is available while I am waiting?

Families waiting for an ICF/MR level of care waiver are eligible to receive a small amount of Care Giver Support Services (i.e. Respite) each year. Your local BDDS office can provide information and a listing of providers for this service. Contact them directly to find out how to access Care Giver Support funding while waiting to be targeted for a waiver slot. If you should have an EMERGENCY (serious illness or incapacitation of a primary care giver) while your loved one is waiting for an ICF/MR waiver you may be able to receive Emergency Support Services. This is not a waiver but rather an individualized package of supports created to address the needs of an individual when a primary caregiver is not able and no other supports exist. If you are in need of this type of assistance contact your local BDDS office and ask about Emergency Support Services. You may need to speak to a supervisor about this.

F2F Tip: There are other state programs that may be of help while you are waiting for waiver services. It is advisable to check to see if there are other programs for which you might be eligible.

# Where to Apply

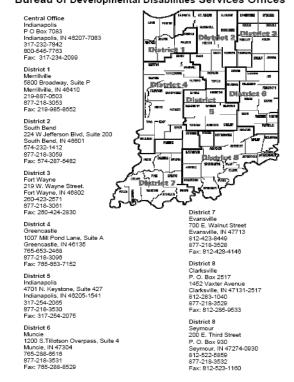
# A&D and TBI

#### Area Agency on Aging Offices



# Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services Offices

DD, Autism and SS



# Where to get more Information:

The Consumer Guide to Indiana Medicaid Waiver Home and Community Based Waiver Services Programs is online at <a href="https://www.in.gov/gpcpd">www.in.gov/gpcpd</a> Or, contact the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities for a print copy 317-232-7770 or <a href="https://www.arcind.org">bwade@gpcpd.org</a> The Arc of Indiana, <a href="https://www.arcind.org">www.arcind.org</a>, provides information on legislative and administrative efforts related to the waivers.

**FAMILY FA** 

For more information or to talk with other First Steps parents, call 1-800-396-7188 or email family2family@sbcglobal.net. You can also visit Family to Family online at www.inf2f.org.

Connecting Families in Community