

What is a Medicaid Waiver?

Medicaid Waivers offer extra support services for kids and adults with disabilities allowing them greater flexibility to choose where they want to live and to use service and supports that best suit their needs, while still receiving Medicaid state plan benefits. Waiver services help with things like self-care, respite care, special equipment, engaging with the community or finding employment for adults. Waivers are offered through the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (DHH, OCDD). Application and eligibility determinations are administered through the local human services districts/authority.

OCDD offers the following waiver services:

- **Children's Choice Waiver** offers supplemental support to children through age 18 who currently live at home with their families or with a foster family.
- **New Opportunities Waiver** offers people age 3 and older who otherwise would require the level of care of an Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICFs/DD) services that allow them to remain in their communities. Services are based on the need of the recipient and are developed using a person-centered process to formulate an individualized plan.
- **Residential Options Waiver** offers people of all ages services designed to support them to move from ICFs/DD and nursing facilities to community-based settings, and to serve as an alternative to institutionalization.
- **Supports Waiver** offers focused, individualized vocational services to people age 18 and older who otherwise would require the level of care of an Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (ICFs/DD).

Applying for a Medicaid Waiver could be one of the most important things you do to get support for your child throughout their life!

How to apply for a waiver?

You will call your local Human Services District (HSD) office and tell them you want to get a Medicaid Waiver.

Florida Parishes Human Services Authority

985-543-4333

835 Pride Drive, Suite B,
Hammond, LA 70401

Permanent Supportive Housing
Mental Health Addictive Disorders
Developmental Disabilities

e-mail: admin@fphsa.org

website: www.fphsa.org

After you contact your local Human Services District:

- Someone from the HSD office will call to schedule a face-to-face meeting. If it's hard for you to get to the office, they can meet you at your home or somewhere else. This should be done within 10 days after you call them. If it doesn't happen, call them again!
- They might ask for medical records or results from any evaluations that have been done. If your child has an IEP, they will look at that as well.
- They will do an assessment called a SUN: Screen for Urgency of Need. This is to see what needs your family member has, and how urgent these are. They will ask about your family member's disability, skills, medical needs, and ability to take care of basic personal needs.
- They will give you a SUN Score, based on the assessment. A score of 0 means that the needs are not urgent and can wait. A score of 4 is the highest and means that there are urgent needs for support right away. The higher the score, the sooner you will get the services.

After assessment is complete and eligibility is determined:

You will be offered a waiver based on the following 3 things:

1. How urgent your needs are (determined through a Screen for Urgency of Need (SUN) Score)
2. Your date of application ("protected date")
3. The funding that's available

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION for a step-by-step breakdown of the waiver process, SSI, pupil appraisal, and more, may be located at:

la.exceptionallives.org