

The State of Indiana is always striving to improve Indiana's home and community based services Medicaid Waiver program for individuals with disabilities and their families. Since this guide was published, the state has made changes to waivers through the Bureau of Disabilities Services (BDS). These changes include:

Application Process

BDS has created an online application portal called the BDS Gateway. This allows individuals to apply for services at a time that is convenient for them. Individuals can apply for BDS services at bddsgateway.fssa.in.gov. A representative from the local BDS office should be in contact within 15 days after an application is submitted, although some offices are experiencing delays. If someone has applied for services and has not heard from the BDS office within 15 days, contact the BDS office directly to ensure BDS received the application and to move forward with the process.

Priority Status

Individuals applying for a Family Supports Waiver (FSW) will generally go on a statewide waiting list for services. However, there are two groups who can request priority status to begin receiving services sooner:

- Individuals between 18 and 24 years of age who have exited high school can request priority status. They will need to provide a copy of their high school diploma, High School Equivalency (HSE), Certificate of Completion, or Certificate of Attendance.
- The children of active duty service members or veterans can also request priority status regardless of age. Individuals will need to provide a copy of the service member's DD-214 form.

Family Support Waiver Cap & Income Guidelines

The annual cap for FSW services is \$26,482.

Effective 2024, monthly income financial eligibility is \$2,829 for the CIH, FSW and A&D waivers and \$1,414 for the TBI waiver.

Waiver Redesign

BDS is committed to ensuring Medicaid Waivers assist individuals in achieving their vision of a good life. In an effort to modernize and improve services, BDS has engaged families and people with disabilities in a project to redesign Medicaid Waivers. While this extensive project slowed during the COVID-19 pandemic, redesign efforts continue. To learn about the waiver redesign project and status, visit in.gov/fssa/ddrs/bdds-waiver-redesign.

Medicaid Redetermination

During the COVID-19 federal public health emergency (PHE), Medicaid members were able to keep their coverage, regardless of a change in income, resources, or Medicaid category. That requirement ended on March 31, 2023. All Medicaid members will be reassessed when their regularly scheduled redetermination is due. For some Medicaid recipients this could result in actions to adjust, reduce or eliminate coverage. It is important for Indiana Medicaid to have your current contact information and that you watch for and respond to any information you receive. Remember, parental income is not counted toward financial eligibility for children receiving Medicaid Waiver services.

- Go to FSSABenefits.IN.gov
- Scroll down to the blue “Manage Your Benefits” section
- Click on either “Sign in to my account” or “Create account”
- Check that your contact information is accurate or create an account
- Call 800-403-0864 if you need assistance
- Watch your mail! Be sure to respond with any request for information
- If you are told you no longer qualify, contact The Arc of Indiana at 317-977-2375 and ask to speak with a family advocate.

Helpful Links

Individuals can check their status on the waiting list or update their contact information by going to the waitlist portal at ddrsprovider.fssa.in.gov/BDDS/ConsumerInfo/InfoSearch.aspx.

BDS - in.gov/fssa/ddrs/developmental-disability-services

Indiana Medicaid - <https://www.in.gov/medicaid>

Vocational Rehabilitation Services - in.gov/fssa/ddrs/rehabilitation-employment/vocational-rehabilitation-employment

Division of Aging - in.gov/fssa/da

Children’s Special Health Care Services - in.gov/health/cshcs

CHOICE – state funded home care services - in.gov/fssa/da/community-and-home-options-to-institutional-care-for-the-elderly-and-disabled

WIC - in.gov/health/wic

Long Term Care Ombudsman – The long term care ombudsman oversees long term care facilities including nursing facilities, rehabilitation centers, and intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF-IIDs), including group homes - in.gov/ombudsman/long-term-care-ombudsman/overview.

First Steps - in.gov/fssa/firststeps/index.html

Indiana Department of Education - in.gov/doe

Independent Living Centers - in.gov/fssa/ddrs/rehabilitation-employment/independent-living-services-program-centers-and-statewide-council

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