

FACT SHEET

In Florida, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) assists individuals who have developmental disabilities and their families to identify the needs and funding to purchase supports and services. Though the Central Office in Tallahassee, these supports and services are provided through fourteen (14) area offices throughout the state.

The Agency works in partnership with local communities to ensure the safety, well-being and self-sufficiency for the people they serve. Florida is working hard to assist individuals with inclusion, self-determination, employment and choice, and be financially responsible as they identify individuals and families needing APD services. There are currently individuals receiving services and individuals on a waiting list to receive services.

Mission:

The Primary Mission of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities is to Support Persons with Developmental Disabilities in Living, Learning and Working, in All Aspects of Community Life.

Eligibility:

Eligible persons include those individuals age 3 and above, diagnosed as having one or more of the following categorical developmental disabilities (onset prior to age 18) which can be reasonably expected to last indefinitely.

- Mental Retardation
- Autism
- Cerebral Palsy
- Spina Bifida
- Prader-Willi Syndrome
- High-risk (3-5 years)

Children, ages 3-5 with medical, biological, psychological, psychosocial and/or environmental factors which significantly increase the likelihood of developmental disability, are eligible to receive a variety of early intervention services and are served under the category of high risk. Children 0-3 years of age receive services from Children's Medical Services (CMS).

Medical Necessity:

Medicaid Waiver funded services must be:

- Necessary to protect life, prevent significant illness or significant disability, or alleviate severe pain;
- Individualized, specific and consistent with symptoms or confirmed diagnosis of the illness or injury under treatment and not in excess of the person's needs;
- Consistent with generally accepted professional medical standards as defined by the Medicaid program and not be experimental or investigational;
- Reflective of the level of service that can safely be furnished, for which no equally effective and more conservative or less costly treatment is available statewide;
- Furnished in a manner not primarily intended for the convenience of the beneficiary, the beneficiary's caretaker or the provider.

***Individuals with Developmental Disabilities
want to work. They can have meaningful
lives in the community, if just given the opportunity!***