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RURAL Resources

Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program: Services for Children and Families

DEFINITION

In Montana, a developmental disability is defined as:

- A disability that can be attributed to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or any other neurological handicapping condition closely related to mental retardation and requiring treatment similar to that required by individuals with mental retardation; and that
- Originated before age 18; and that
- Has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely; and that
- Constitutes a substantial handicap to the person.

CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES

Child and Family Developmental Disabilities (DD) Services are designed to help families care for their children with developmental disabilities in their own homes.

INCOME AND RESOURCES

There are no income or resource qualifications to meet in order for a child to be eligible for Child and Family DD Services.

LEVELS OF SERVICES

There are three levels of service available for children and their families. Each level has its own eligibility requirements. Once a child has been determined eligible, his family will meet with a Child and Family DD Service Family Support Specialist (FSS) to craft an appropriate service plan.

Part C Infant and Toddler Program (Part C) – Federally Funded

- This is an entitlement program. That means that if a child meets the eligibility requirements, she will receive the services.
- To qualify for Part C services, a child must be between 0-3 years of age **and**
- Have a diagnosed physical or medical condition that has a high probability for developmental delay **or**
- Have significant delays in at least 3 of the 5 areas of development: cognition, gross and fine motor skills, communication, social-emotional development, or self-help.
- Services include: parent coaching, service coordination, advocacy and support, assistive technology, audiology, assistance with transition to school at age three, counseling, therapies (such as speech, physical and occupational), health related, medical, psychological, vision, social work, special instruction, transportation, nutrition, respite care, and other services based on the child's areas of need and the family's concerns and priorities.

Family Education and Support (FES) – State General Funding

- This is not an entitlement program. That means that even if a child meets the eligibility requirements, his name might have to be placed on a waiting list until a slot can open up for him to receive the services.
- To qualify for FES services, a child must be between 0-6 years of age **and**
- Have risk factors that have a high probability of resulting in developmental delay **or**
- Be between 6-21 years of age and have a diagnosed developmental disability.
- **Full Services** include: parent coaching, advocacy and support, service coordination, assistance with the transition to adult services, and vocational training.
- **Limited Services** available :
 - **Limited Respite**
 - Individuals of **any age** who are at risk for delays in development or have a diagnosed developmental disability may qualify.
 - This provides respite care funding and limited support to families.
 - **Follow-Along**
 - Individuals aged 0-21 may qualify.
 - The youth must be at risk for delays in development or have a diagnosed developmental disability.
 - Services include up to four home visits per year and limited support coordination.

Intensive Family Education and Support (IFES) – Medicaid Funded

- This is not an entitlement program. That means that even if a child meets the eligibility requirements, his name might have to be placed on a waiting list until a slot can open up for him to receive the services.
- To qualify for IFES services, a child must be between 0-21 years of age **and**
- Have extraordinary medical or behavioral needs and a developmental disability that places the child at risk for an out-of-home placement.
- This is a Medicaid Waiver program, meaning that the child must qualify for Medicaid health care coverage. The parents' income and resources are waived (not considered) when determining Medicaid eligibility for the child.
- The waiting list for IFES can be quite long.
- Services include: strong case management, parent coaching, assistance with transition to adult services, advocacy and support, vocational training, respite care, specialized instruction, and access to a variety of other applicable resources and supports.
- IFES funding follows the child into adult status. This means that when the child turns 18 and graduates from high school, she can take her allotted IFES funding and use it to purchase adult Developmental Disabilities services from the adult provider of her choice.

TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

As a child and her family begin transition planning for life after high school, the Family Support Specialist can be a tremendous resource. The FSS can:

- Attend Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings at the parent's request;
- Help the child and her family develop a plan for the child's future;

- Inform parents of adult service options, arrange for tours, assist with the planning process and financial arrangements for adult services; and
- For youth receiving FES or IFES services, initiate the application for adult services and complete all required paperwork.

Youth are generally referred to adult DD services in the junior or senior year of high school (they can be referred as early as age 16) or within a year of transitioning to adult services.

TO APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE

If you think your child or a child you know has a developmental disability or might be at risk of developing a developmental disability, contact the Child and Family DD Program provider nearest you to make a referral. To locate the provider for your area, visit the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services DD Program's Web site:

<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/ddp/index.shtml>

Or the regional maps found on the Rural Institute's Transition Projects Web site:

http://ruralinstitute.umn.edu/transition/forms_tools.asp

Or see below:

CONTRACTED CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES PROVIDERS

Region I Offices:

Developmental Educational Assistance Program (DEAP) - Part C/FES/IFES
2200 Box Elder
Miles City, MT 59301
Phone (406) 234-6034
FAX (406) 234-7018

Hi-Line Home Programs, Inc.- Part C/FES/IFES
605 3rd Ave. South
Glasgow, MT 59230
Phone (406) 228-9431
FAX (406) 228-2984

Region II Office:

Quality Life Concepts - Part C/FES/IFES
215 Smelter Avenue NE, #1
PO Box 2506
Great Falls, MT 59404
Phone (406) 452-9531
FAX (406) 453-5930

Region III Offices:

Support and Techniques for Empowering People (STEP) - Part C/FES/IFES
Evergreen Center Suite 210
1501 14th Street West
Billings, MT 59102
Phone (406) 248-2055
FAX (406) 248-1493

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) – Part C only
1315 Lewis Ave.
Billings, MT 59102
Phone (406) 247-3800
FAX (406) 245-1149

Region IV Office:

Family Outreach Inc. - Part C/FES/IFES
110 E. Lyndale Ave.
Helena, MT 59601
Phone (406) 443-3083
FAX (406) 443-3299

Region V Office:

Child Development Center (CDC) - Part C/FES/IFES
T-214 Fort Missoula
Missoula, MT 59804
Phone (406) 549-6413
FAX (406) 542-0143

Statewide

AWARE, Inc. - IFES only
20 Third Street East
Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone (406) 756-1435

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM OFFICES

Central Office

Developmental Disabilities Program
111 Sanders
PO Box 4210
Helena, MT 59604
(406) 444-2995
(406) 444-0230 FAX

Region I Offices:

Developmental Disabilities Program
Box 472B - 226 6th St. S.
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-8264
(406) 228-8263 FAX

Developmental Disabilities Program
114 N 7th
Miles City, MT 59301
(406) 232-2595
(406) 232-0885 FAX

Region II Office:

Developmental Disabilities Program
201 First St S., Suite #3
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-6085
(406) 454-6082 FAX

Region III Office:

Developmental Disabilities Program
2121 Rosebud Dr., Ste. C-1
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 259-8122
(406) 652-1895 FAX

Region IV Offices:

Developmental Disabilities Program
3075 North Montana, Room 108
Helena, MT 59620
(406) 444-1714
(406) 444-0826 FAX

Developmental Disabilities Program
300 N Wilson Ave, Ste 3001
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-6066
(406) 586-8924 FAX

Developmental Disabilities Program
700 Casey, Ste A
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 496-4922
(406) 782-8728 FAX

Region V Offices:

Developmental Disabilities Program
2675 Palmer St., Ste B
Missoula, MT 59808
(406) 329-5415
(406) 329-5490 FAX

Developmental Disabilities Program
2282 Highway 93 South
Box 2357
Kalispell, MT 59903
(406) 751-5930
(406) 751-5944 FAX

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