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RURAL Resources

Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program: Services for Adults

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.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES FOR ADULTS

If you are **16 years of age or older** and have a developmental disability, you may qualify for Developmental Disabilities (DD) services for adults. These services are designed to help people with developmental disabilities to live, work and recreate as independently as possible.

Adult DD services are not an entitlement. This means that even if you meet the eligibility requirements, you may not receive services right away. Instead, your name may be placed on a waiting list. How long you have to wait depends on such factors as where you are living, what services you need, and whether or not your situation is considered an emergency. It is very important to develop support plans that do not depend on Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) funding since it is likely you will have to wait for services.

INCOME AND RESOURCES

There are no income or resource qualifications to meet in order for an adult to be eligible for Developmental Disability adult services.

DD SERVICES

There are many kinds of services available for adults with developmental disabilities. Different services have different eligibility requirements. Once you have been determined eligible, you will meet with a DD Case Manager (CM) to craft an appropriate service plan tailored to your specific needs.

Supports offered include:

- Case management – assistance in planning, obtaining and coordinating services
- Self-Directed Services

- Residential – community group homes; individually tailored supported living; Adult Foster Support; Assisted Living
- Employment – facility-based jobs; community-based jobs; supported employment
- Community participation – Adult Companion Services; Community Supports
- Transportation – to work, day programs, and community activities
- Adaptive equipment – equipment evaluation, customization and training; pool of used equipment to meet short-term needs
- Evaluation and diagnostic – to determine disabling conditions and recommend services
- Health and safety - Personal Care Services; Private Duty Nursing; Respite Services

CASE MANAGEMENT

Case management is the **only entitlement DD service for adults**. That means if you apply and meet the eligibility requirements, you will receive case management. Your Case Manager can help you access the care and supports you need.

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

This is a program created to help people with developmental disabilities live in the community. Each individual receives a limited amount of funding (\$7800/year maximum in 2007) to pay for services which will support community living. In order to qualify, it must be determined that the \$7800 will be adequate to meet your health and safety needs.

Community Supports is not an entitlement. That means that if you apply and are determined eligible, your name may be placed on a waiting list for services. You can have your name added to the waiting list at age 17½ but must be at least 18 years old to enter services.

TRANSITION-AGE YOUTH

If you are a high school student age 16 or older and you are planning for your transition from school to the “adult world,” a DD Case Manager can be a tremendous resource. The CM can:

- Attend your Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings (by invitation);
- Provide you with information about adult services available locally;
- Present at local transition fairs or forums;
- Provide you with waiting list information and suggest alternatives; and
- Suggest skills and experiences you should have in school to promote your independence as an adult.

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

You may apply for DD adult services if you are age 16 or older.

1. If you already have Child and Family DD Services, talk to your provider agency about completing the eligibility paperwork and referral for adult services.
2. If you do not have Child and Family DD Services, contact the Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) Regional Office nearest you and they will refer you to an adult Case Manager.

To locate the DD office in your area, visit the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Web site: <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/ddp/regionaloffices.shtml>

Or the regional maps found on the Rural Institute's Transition Projects Web site: http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/forms_tools.asp

Or see below:

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM OFFICES

Central Office

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

Region I Offices:

Developmental Disabilities Program
Box 472B - 226 6th St. S.
Glasgow, MT 59230
(406) 228-8265
(406) 228-8264 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
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
121 Financial Drive, Suite B
Kalispell, MT 59903-2357
(406) 751-5930
(406) 751-5944 FAX

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



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