

Service & Support Administration

Medicaid Waiver Eligibility

To receive services through a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver administered by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities, a person must be Medicaid eligible and must meet the eligibility criteria for a developmental disabilities (DD) Level of Care (LOC).

The LOC is a non-financial eligibility component of the Medicaid long-term care programs. Individuals who meet the criteria for a DD LOC may be eligible to receive services through an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) or an HCBS Waiver.

ICF/IIDs are an important part of Ohio's developmental disabilities service system offering a bundled service package with access to round-the-clock care. The HCBS Waiver is a community-based alternative to an ICF/IID.

Freedom of choice: When someone is determined to meet a DD LOC, they can choose (based on availability) to either receive services in an ICF/IID facility or accept a waiver to obtain their services in a community setting from an Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) certified provider.

To be eligible for a DD LOC, an individual must meet the following criteria:

For individuals birth through age 9 years, the criteria for a DD LOC is met when the individual has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition; and in the absence of individually planned supports, the individual has a high probability of having substantial functional limitations in at least three of the major life areas assessed: self-care, receptive and expressive communication, learning, mobility, capacity for independent living, self-direction.

For individuals ages 10 years and older, the criteria for a DD LOC is met when the individual meets all of the following criteria:

- the individual has been diagnosed with a severe, chronic disability that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or a combination of physical and mental impairments, other than an impairment caused solely by mental illness;
- is manifested before the individual is age 22 years;
- is likely to continue indefinitely; and
- results in substantial functional limitations in at least three of the major life areas assessed (same as above with the addition of Economic Self-Sufficiency starting at age 16 years).

To learn more, please contact our Service & Support Administration team at 440-350-5145.



Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood

Empower individuals with developmental disabilities to engage in activities that enrich their lives and contribute to their community.



Info@LakeBDD.org



LakeBDD.org



[@DeepwoodLakeDD](https://www.instagram.com/DeepwoodLakeDD)

Revised 8-26-2026

Service & Support Administration

Wait List for HCBS Waiver Services

Individuals who require a specific Level of Care (LOC), and meet the financial criteria, can enroll in Medicaid. Adults who have developmental disabilities (DD) may be eligible for Medicaid even if their parents are not eligible.

To better serve Ohioans with developmental disabilities, organizations collaborated to improve and modernize Ohio's Medicaid Waiver waiting list. In 2018, the old system was replaced with a new Wait List Rule and Assessment Tool. This new rule sets the requirements for the DD waiver waiting list when available resources are insufficient to enroll people assessed to need home and community-based services through waivers. The goal of the Wait List Assessment Tool is to identify people who have a current need for services and match them with resources that will meet their unique assessed needs.

Individuals will be assessed using a new statewide Wait List assessment tool.

There are 4 possible outcomes:

- **An Immediate Need:** A situation that creates a risk of substantial harm to an individual, caregiver or another person if action is not taken within thirty calendar days to reduce the risk.
- **A Current Need:** An unmet need for home and community-based services within twelve months as determined by the County Board and based upon assessment of the individual using the Wait List Assessment Tool.
- **No Unmet Needs:** At this time and/or anticipated in the next 12 months, either there are no assessed needs or that the assessed needs are being or can be met with alternative resources/services.
- **Not eligible:** For placement on the Wait List or enrollment onto a Waiver due to no qualifying condition.

Should an individual wish to see the results of their assessment, a paper copy of the assessment may be requested from the County Board.

Should a person's needs change, a new assessment can be completed by contacting the County Board SSA department and requesting a new assessment.

To learn more, please contact our Service & Support Administration team at 440-350-5145.



Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood

Empower individuals with developmental disabilities to engage in activities that enrich their lives and contribute to their community.



Info@LakeBDD.org



LakeBDD.org



[@DeepwoodLakeDD](https://www.instagram.com/DeepwoodLakeDD)

Revised 8-26-2026

Service & Support Administration

Medicaid Funded Options

The County Board Service & Support Administration (SSA) department helps find and coordinate services to meet the unique needs of an individual with a developmental disability and their family. Through the use of assessment tools, SSA gets to know each individual and what supports might be needed.

Non-Waiver Resource Options:

Waivers are just one way to pay for the services a person with developmental disabilities (DD) needs. You may be able to have your needs met without using a waiver, if other resources are available, such as:

- State Plan Medicaid Services including services received in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), Private Duty Nursing, and Home Healthcare services
- Services and/or funding available through other community agencies
- Funding or services through a County Board of Developmental Disabilities

By braiding together multiple funding sources, a person with developmental disabilities may be able to have their service needs met without a waiver.

Medicaid Waiver Resource Options:

Medicaid Home and Community Based (HCBS) Waivers allow the state to provide services beyond its State Plan to a limited number of people who meet certain Level of Care (LOC) criteria. Currently, DODD offers three waivers that require a person to meet a DD LOC and which allow people to live in their homes or other community settings and receive needed supports. Each Waiver has its own spending limits.

1. **Level One Waivers:** The Level One Waiver (L1 Waiver) is a good fit for people who do not need a lot of paid staff to provide services, people who have a lot of family or other non-paid supports surrounding them, and/or who primarily need supports to pursue vocational and/or adult day activities.
2. **Self-Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waivers:** Ohio's first participant-directed waiver is designed for people who want to be in charge of some of their services and how those services are budgeted. The SELF Waiver requires the person enrolled, or someone they choose, to direct at least one of their services.
3. **Individual Options (I.O.) Waivers:** The I.O. Waiver is a comprehensive waiver that allows people to live in the person's family home and/or other community settings of their choice with necessary supports. The I/O Waiver has a higher funding limit that is determined by assessment.

Waiver services are developed in order to meet a person's individualized needs.

To learn more, please contact our Service & Support Administration team at 440-350-5145.



Lake County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Deepwood

Empower individuals with developmental disabilities to engage in activities that enrich their lives and contribute to their community.



Info@LakeBDD.org



LakeBDD.org



[@DeepwoodLakeDD](https://www.instagram.com/DeepwoodLakeDD)

Revised 8-26-2026