



# *Developmental Disabilities Resource Center*

Resource Coordination \* 11177 West 8th Ave \* Lakewood, CO 80215-5503  
Voice or TDD 303 233-3363 \* Toll Free 1-800-649-8815 \* RC Fax 303 205-1606

## **Adult Waiting Lists for Developmental Disability Funded Services**

### **Eligibility**

The Developmental Disability system in Colorado has two eligibility determination processes. Children under age 5 must meet criteria for a developmental delay. Persons age 5 and over need to meet the criteria for a developmental disability as defined by Colorado Statute.

In Colorado a developmental disability is defined as a disability that is manifested before 22 years of age, which constitutes a substantial disability to the affected individual and is attributable to mental retardation or related conditions which include Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Autism, or other neurological conditions when such conditions result in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior similar to that of a person with mental retardation. Adaptive behaviors similar to that of a person with mental retardation means the person has overall adaptive behavior which is significantly below the mean in two or more areas and these behavior limitations are a direct result of, or are significantly influenced by, the person's substantial intellectual deficits, defined as having an IQ between 71 and 75.

Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (DDRC) has an Eligibility Committee that reviews referrals for persons residing in Jefferson, Clear Creek, Gilpin and Summit Counties. The Resource Coordinator then refers eligible individuals to services they are interested in and meet program requirements for, most of which have wait lists.

### **Adult Wait Lists (age 18 and over)**

As with children, adults living with family are eligible for the State and County funded Family Support Services Program (FSSP). At age 18 individuals are also eligible to access Supported Living Services (SLS) and HCBS-DD Residential/Comprehensive services. There are lengthy wait lists for these two services. DDRC closely monitors the waiting lists following the established statewide wait list management criteria.

### **Getting On Adult Wait Lists**

Individuals can get on the SLS and/or Residential wait lists starting at age 14 through their Resource Coordinator. For persons found eligible for developmental disability services after age 5 and before age 14, their wait list selection date will be their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday. For those found eligible after age 14, their wait list selection date will be the same as their eligibility date. It is the wait list selection date that determines prioritization order on the wait list. The wait list selection date also determines the order in which resources are offered.

### **Timeline Choices for Adult Wait Lists**

There are three choices an individual and their family can make when deciding when the individual will actually want SLS or Residential services. Those choices are a specific date, as soon as available, or safety net.

- **Specific Date:** Specific Date refers to the want for a service when a specific date is reached. For example the date a person turns 18 or 21, the date of graduation, or any other date determined by the person or their family.
- **Safety Net:** Safety Net means the person does not want or need the service currently, but will want or need a resource if current supports are lost or otherwise change.
- **As Soon As Available:** ASAA means the service is needed right now and the resource would be accepted "As Soon As Available." To be waiting for a service on an ASAA timeline a person must be at least 18 years of age.

Resource Coordination will review with the individual/family what wait lists a person is on and their timelines at least annually. Changes can be made at any time as requested.

### **Getting Off Wait Lists into Service**

DDRC strictly adheres to wait list guidelines given to us by the State through the Division for Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Wait lists operate as a first-come-first-served basis to assure fairness. Once a person is found eligible, the wait list date is established so that the individual goes onto the SLS, Residential services or other list by that date. For persons who move in Colorado from one Community Centered Board's area to another, they are able to keep their same eligibility and wait list dates. When a service resource becomes available, an offer is made to the individual at the top who has requested the service "as soon as available." If the individual for any reason turns down the service when offered, they do not lose their established dates. The timeline for that person would be changed to either "safety net" or "specific date"; however, the individual can go back to the "as soon as available" status whenever they are ready to accept the service.



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## **Adult Wait List Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. If I say no, do I lose my spot on the waiting list?**

A. When we are able to offer funding for a service, we go down the list of individuals wanting those services “as soon as available” by the established waiting list selection date. No one loses his or her spot on the list when they turn down the service; however, we will change the timeline to either a specific date or for when circumstances change (safety net). The individual can go back to the “as soon as available” timeline with no penalty whenever they feel ready for the service.

### **Q. What if we move?**

A. If you stay in Colorado, you can be referred to whatever Community Centered Board works with that area to be on their waiting list. If you already receive a service, the funding can also transfer to that new CCB. It does not always mean that the exact same service is available. If you move out of state, the funding cannot follow you to a new state. If you return in less than a year, you can keep the previously established waiting list selection date once eligibility is re-determined.

### **Q. Why is it so hard to be told my number on the waiting list?**

A. The list changes as individuals with established wait list selection dates choose to be placed on a specific waiting list either for the first time or due to moving into our area. Individuals may also change their timeline to “as soon as available” and if their wait list selection date is earlier, they will be asked ahead of those with a later date. Also, qualified emergencies are prioritized and placed at the top of the waiting list.

### **Q. Do I have to have Medicaid?**

A. Most adult developmental disability services in Colorado are funded through Medicaid so the State can have their portion of the cost matched by Federal dollars. Therefore, for adult services, the individual usually needs to qualify for Medicaid. There are some persons served in Supported Living Services with State general funding. There are no longer any individuals receiving State general funding for Residential services. As new SLS and Residential funding becomes available to DDRC from the State, it is always Medicaid Program funded as opposed to State General dollar funded.

### **Q. What happens to my benefits when I start services?**

A. SSI, SSDI, and other benefits continue to come to the individual when any services begin. For persons receiving Residential services, those benefits are used to pay for room and board in the new setting. If the individual earns more in benefits than the established room and board rate (the same amount as what SSI is set at), the extra dollars are returned to the individual. At minimum, every individual receives \$65 per month to pay for personal expenses.

### **Q. What if something happens to me before my son or daughter is in Residential Services?**

A. Sometimes you may have made arrangements with the individual’s siblings, other family, or friends. When this is not the case, the individual would likely be considered an emergency and be prioritized on the waiting list, as per the State wait list guidelines. DDRC would actively seek funding either through available resources, or emergency funding from the State. Some individuals may need to seek emergency alternative services until funding can be secured and an appropriate residential setting can be found.

### **Q. What if I want a different service model?**

A. We are able to set up some creative ways to provide services, but must always work within the rules of that particular program (either with SLS or Residential services). Through the years, programs have evolved in response to individuals and families asking for more flexibility or other alternatives, so we hope to continue to expand on current service models. Currently we can provide SLS services to individual living in their family or own home. Residential services are typically offered in an out of home residential setting; however, because of the new Family Care Giver model options are available for individuals to remain in the family home with comprehensive funding.