

Important Resources for Families of Young Children with Disabilities

If you suspect your child has a lifelong disability that was present at birth (or before age 3 years), you may want to investigate federal/state programs designed to assist with the expense of therapies and other support services.

These programs, typically funded by Medicaid and State general budget funds, can also cover the cost of residential services for adults who qualify. *Even if you don't think your child will need these services, it is wise to get on the interest list. In Texas, the wait for services is 8 to 10 years. You can always decline services if your child doesn't need them in the future.* It is difficult to determine what a child may need as they get closer to adulthood, so it is a good idea to have as many options as possible. These waiver services can cover the cost of group homes, assisted living in an apartment, respite, job coaching or attendant care in addition to important therapies and case management.

➔ **The HCS Program (Home and Community-based Services) provides services for individuals who meet the criteria for an Intellectual disability (ID). This program will also provide supports for individuals with physical/medical challenges as well, as long as the ID criteria is met.**

To get on the HCS Interest List, call the correct county and say this: "I want to be placed on the Medicaid Waiver Program List for Home and Community Services."

If you live in Collin County call:

Lifepath Systems - 972-727-91335

If you live in Dallas County call:

Dallas MetroCare Services - 214-333-7000

If you live in Denton County call:

Denton County MHMR Center - 940-381-5000

➔ **The CLASS Program (Community Living Assistance and Support Services), the MDCP program (Medically Dependent Children Program), and the Deaf Blind/Multiple Disability Program all provide services for individuals with physical challenges as indicated by the program names. A person may also have an Intellectual Disability, but they must meet the other program criteria as well.**

To get on the Interest list for one of these programs, call the following number regardless of the County in which you live and say this: "I want to be placed on the Medicaid Waiver Program list for CLASS (or whichever program is appropriate)."

1 – 877 – 438 – 5658

If you think your child may qualify for more than one, ask to have their name added to each list.



For more information about services and supports available throughout the State of Texas, visit www.dads.state.tx.us

This information is provided by Speech & Occupational Therapy of North Texas as a resource.
Please contact the programs directly for the most recent and accurate information.