

Intellectual Disability Services Frequently Asked Questions

1. How do I get started in services?

Individuals interested in waiver services may contact The Guidance Center at 814-362-6535 and ask about Intellectual Disability Services.

2. What is the PUNS?

PUNS stands for Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services. The PUNS form gathers information about your situation, your needs (current and anticipated) and what services & supports you may need through the Office of Developmental Programs. The information is collected by each County's Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Program, also known as that County's Administrative Entity (AE). The PUNS is used by the County IDD Program and state to track how many people are waiting for services and what types of services are needed.

3. What is the waiting list?

The waiting list refers to the number of persons who have completed a PUNS, but are waiting for available funding or waivers to receive services. Each county gets an annual allocation of funding from the Department of Public Welfare Office of Developmental Programs. Counties prioritize funding based on urgency of need, availability of services to meet these needs, and availability of funding. People already enrolled in waivers must have all their needs met before the County can enroll new people.

4. How long do I have to wait?

It is important to remember that the Waiting List is not like a typical waiting line where each person has a number. The county matches available resources with individual needs to determine who gets services and when. People in Emergency category will have priority, but may still have to wait.

5. What is a Waiver?

Waiver is a short way of saying "Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver Program." Waivers pay for supports and services that eligible people need to live in the community instead of an institution. Waiver programs are funded by federal and state monies. The federal (Medicaid) portion of funding is matched by the state. The two types of waiver programs are:

- Person/Family Directed Support (PFDS) Waiver: It is known as the "small" waiver because it has a cap of \$30,000 (currently) per person each fiscal year. This funding can be used to get the support you need to participate in a wide range of activities in your community. The PFDS waiver cannot support residential services in a community home.

- Consolidated Waiver: This waiver is sometimes referred to as the "big" waiver, or residential waiver because it can include residential services in community homes. There is no set dollar cap on your individual budget to purchase needed supports that you can receive. The amount of support will be based on needs as determined through the planning process.

6. Is it possible to Lose My Waiver After I am Enrolled?

Yes, you must continue to meet the following criteria annually:

- Eligibility for IDD Services
- Level of Care (ICF/ID) — This means that you have the same level of care needs as someone who would receive the same services in an institution.
- Financial eligibility — This is determined by the County Assistance Office