

Developmental Disabilities Services

For questions or more information on services available, call the McKean County Developmental Disabilities Unit at 814-887-3475.

Program Eligibility:

The Administrative Entity (which is the McKean County Developmental Disabilities Unit) determines a person's eligibility for Medicaid Waiver funding under the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). The two waivers are the Consolidated Waiver and the Person-Family Directed Services Waiver. An individual must meet the following criteria in order to be determined eligible:

- Must be eligible for medical assistance through the County Assistance Office.
- Must have a documented diagnosis of an intellectual and/or diagnosis or autism which occurred during the developmental period of birth through 22nd birthday as determined by a licensed psychologist, certified school psychologist, psychiatrist, or licensed physician who practices psychiatry. (Documentation by a standardized general intelligence test).
- Certification that the individual has significant impairments in adaptive behavior based on results of a standardized assessment of adaptive functioning.

Intake and Enrollment:

Individuals interested in waiver services may contact The Guidance Center at 814-362-6535. Upon intake, individuals will need to provide proof of identification, Social Security Card, Birth Certificate, and Medical/Access Card. Enrollment in the program does require individual and/or family participation in assessment processes, annual eligibility re-determination processes, and monitoring requirements. To maintain eligibility in the program, participants must adhere to medical assistance requirements from the County Assistance Office and work with their Supports Coordinator in scheduling home visits and submitted various documentation requirements.

Once intake and eligibility documents are received and a determination of eligibility is made, the individual will be offered a choice of supports coordination organizations. Once a Supports Coordination Organization has been selected and a supports coordinator assigned, a PUNS form will be completed. The PUNS is the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services which identifies services that are needed and categorizes the urgency of need. Funding is distributed based on the urgency of need and available funds.

Service Options:

Services may include but are not limited to the following options.

Supports Coordination: A critical service that involves locating, coordinating, and monitoring needed services and supports for participants. Locating services and

supports consists of assistance to the participant and his or her family in linking, arranging for, and obtaining services specified in an Individual Service Plan (ISP), including needed medical, social, habilitation, education, or other needed community services.

Residential Habilitation Services: These are direct and indirect services provided to participants who live in licensed and unlicensed provider owned, rented or leased residential settings. This service is built on the principle that every participant has the capacity to engage in lifelong learning. Through the provision of this service, participants will acquire, maintain, or improve skills necessary to live in the community, to live more independently and to participate meaningfully in community life.

Community Participation Supports: This service provides opportunities and support for community participation, building interest in and developing skills and potential for competitive integrated employment. The service should result in the person increasing potential for employment, developing and sustaining a range of valued social roles and relationships, building natural supports and experiencing meaningful community participation and inclusion.

Supported Employment: This service is appropriate for people interested in competitive integrated employment who have little or no work experience; or people who are currently employed but need extended supports to maintain their current job; or people who are currently employed but are interested in finding a new job.

Respite: Direct services that are provided to supervise and support individuals on a short-term basis due to the absence or need for relief of those persons normally providing care to the individual.

In-Home and Community Support: This service is used to assist individuals to acquire, maintain and improve skills necessary to live in the community, to live more independently and to participate more meaningfully in community life. Assistance can be provided to manage medical care, activities of daily living, manage mental health diagnosis and emotional wellness, manage a home, develop and maintain relationships with members of the broader community.

Companion Services: Services for individuals age 18 and older who live in private homes for the purposes of providing supervision or assistance that is designed to ensure the participant's health, safety and welfare or to perform activities of daily living for the participant. This service is intended to assist the individual to participate more meaningfully in home and community life..

Behavioral Support Services: This service includes a comprehensive assessment; the development of strategies to support the individual based upon the assessment; and the provision of interventions and training to individuals, staff, parents and caregivers.