



Developmental Disabilities Eligibility Information

Shared by Molly Holsapple ODDS February
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specific questions contact your County DD Program



Eligibility Determination

What is a developmental disability?

- A developmental disability is a disability diagnosed as a mental or physical condition or a combination of mental and physical conditions resulting in significant impairments to daily functioning. The disability:
 - Must have its origin in the brain
 - Must be established prior to the age of 22, or in the case of mental retardation the condition must be determined before 18 years of age
 - Must be expected to last indefinitely
 - Must result in significant impairments in at least two areas of daily functioning: self care, communication, cognitive, mobility, self direction, capacity for independent living and economic self sufficiency
 - The impairments must not be primarily related to: mental illness, substance abuse, an emotional disorder, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), a learning disability or sensory impairment
 - The most common developmental disabilities include: mental retardation, Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and fetal alcohol effect or fetal alcohol syndrome.




More on Eligibility

- **To be eligible as an adult with mental retardation** a pattern of IQ scores under 75 with significant impairments in daily living skills that are directly related to your intellectual functioning are considered in determining eligibility. This diagnosis must be determined to be in place by your 18th birthday.
- **To be eligible as an adult with a developmental disability other than mental retardation** a medical or clinical diagnosis of a developmental disability is needed along with an assessment of your daily living skills. A diagnosed developmental disability with significant impairments in daily living skills that are directly related to the diagnosis is considered in determining eligibility for other developmental disabilities. This diagnosis must be determined to be in place by your 22nd birthday.



Still More on Eligibility

- **Eligibility for school age children uses the same criteria as adults.**
- **Eligibility for infants and preschoolers...**
The child would need to meet the requirements of having a developmental disability with documentation including a physician's statement of a condition or syndrome indicating significant impairments in daily living skills in two or more areas or standardized testing indicating significant impairments in daily living skills in two or more areas.
- **Eligibility determinations for children are provisional and subject to periodic review.**
- **Are there financial guidelines I must meet to be eligible?**
No. There are no financial requirements you must meet to be eligible for developmental disability services. BUT...



Some System Dynamics and Challenges

- New requests for services are mostly for children.
- People requesting services have intense support needs.
- People entering system wanting more self-directed and individualized services.
- Aging population of those currently in service.