

**Ohio Department  
of  
Developmental  
Disabilities**

**W**

**Is For Waiver**

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**Ohio** | Department of  
Developmental Disabilities

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*Ted Strickland, Governor*  
*John L. Martin, Director*

## W is for Waiver

### **What is a Waiver?**

A waiver is a way that Medicaid can pay for services to keep you in your home so you do not have to move to a long-term care facility or nursing home. Your home is where you choose to live.

### **Are there different kinds of waivers?**

Yes. Your County Board of Developmental Disabilities or County Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) representatives can give you information.

### **Where do I go to get a waiver?**

You apply for a waiver at your County DJFS Office. Tell your local County Board of Developmental Disabilities that you have applied, and on what date you applied.

### **How do I qualify for a waiver?**

You must need the same level of care as people who live in a long-term care facility, and you must meet the income requirements for Medicaid.

### **When should I apply for a waiver?**

You should apply now.

### **How do I get Medicaid?**

Your County Department of Job and Family Services representative decides if you are eligible after asking you questions about:

- Your disability and your age.
- How much money you get each month
- What you own (belongings, savings or investments)

If your disability, income and assets are OK according to Medicaid's eligibility requirements, Medicaid will pay for your services.

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### Who can help me get a waiver?

A Service Support Administrator, Case Manager or a Waiver Administrator are some of the titles held by people who can assist you. They can do such things as:

- Help coordinate the application for Medicaid if the individual has not yet been determined Medicaid eligible
- Help coordinate the completion of the Level of Care assessment.
- Explain and help choose a qualified and willing provider.
- Explain alternatives available upon enrollment on the waiver
- Explain due process and appeal rights
- Make a recommendation to the Ohio DJFS and the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) as to whether you meet the criteria for an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally retarded (ICFMR) Level of Care.
- Annually certify the continued need for an ICFMR Level of Care at the time of re-determination

### What if I am denied a waiver?

You can ask for a state hearing if you don't agree with an action or decision on your case or if you think the local agency has not done something it should have. To ask for a state hearing, call the Bureau of State hearings at 866-635-3748, or TTY 614-728-2985.

### What is a waiting list?

Each County Board of Developmental Disabilities establishes waiting lists when there are not enough resources to meet the needs of everyone requesting service. If you ask for a service that has a waiting list, a County Board will document your request along with the date and time, and place your name on the list if you want the service within the next 12 months.

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### **How will I know what to request?**

A County Board of Developmental Disabilities staff member will ask you and your family questions to help determine your needs. Working with you, the County Board will create the best possible plan to meet your needs. This plan may include waiver and/or other types of services.

### **What happens once I am on a waiting list?**

At least annually, the County Board will review your place on each list and will make sure you still want that service. The county board also will review the services that are available to you and talk with you about your Due Process rights, or right to a state hearing.

### **How do I get “picked” from a waiting list?**

Individuals are picked from a waiting list based on criteria specified in Ohio Administrative Code and Revised Code. In general, the order is: 1) **Emergencies** 2) **Priorities** and 3) **Regular Waiting List**.

### **What if I disagree with my placement or removal from a waiting list?**

You can appeal the decision by using your Due Process rights.

### **How?**

You can ask for a state hearing if you do not agree with an action or a decision on your waiver application or Medicaid benefits. To ask for a state hearing, call the Bureau of State Hearings at 866-635-3748, or TTY 614-728-2985.

**To learn more about waivers, visit the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website: [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov)**