



Louisiana Department of Health's Disability Service System

Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)
&
Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS)

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Disability Service Delivery System

The Service delivery system is split up into three offices under the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH): The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD), the Office for Aging & Adult Services (OAAS), and the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). Within each of these offices, there are programs that are both Medicaid-funded and state-funded.

Healthy Louisiana is the managed care system for Medicaid adults and children who require specialized behavioral health services.

Through better coordination of services, Healthy Louisiana:

- Enhances the consumer experience;
- Increases access to a complete and more effective array of behavioral health services and supports;
- Improves quality of care and outcomes; and
- Reduces repeat ER visits, hospitalizations, out-of-home placements, and institutionalizations

The Louisiana Medicaid Program operates within the Louisiana Department of Health. Medicaid eligibility is determined using the Federal Poverty Level income guidelines.

Legacy Medicaid - Provides medical benefits to low-income individuals and families. However, it also funds support and services for individuals who have disabilities and the elderly. The services are made available through a Waiver.

- This can be found in the legislative budget under LDH- Schedule 9.

Act 421/ Children's Medicaid Option (TEFRA) - allows certain children who have a disability to receive Medicaid coverage, even if their parents earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid. Children with disabilities living at home with their family who apply for Act 421-CMO must meet an institutional level of care for an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID), Nursing Facility, or Hospital to be considered for this program.

- This can be found in the legislative budget under LDH- Schedule 9.

Family Opportunity Act FOA):

The Family Opportunity Act (FOA) Medicaid program is designed to assist families with children who have disabilities, but whose income is too high to qualify for traditional Medicaid or LaCHIP (Louisiana Children's Health Insurance Program). This program allows families to purchase Medicaid coverage for their children, ensuring they receive necessary medical services.

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for the Family Opportunity Act Medicaid, the following criteria must be met:

- Age: The child must be 18 years old or younger.
- Disability: The child must have a disability that meets the Social Security Administration's criteria.
- Income: The family's gross income must not exceed 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). For example, for a family of four, the maximum monthly income is approximately \$5,963.
- Insurance Requirement: Families must enroll in available employer-sponsored health plans if the employer contributes at least 50% of the premium costs.

State General Fund services- Fund services that have been made available based on Legislative appropriation from the State General Fund. These services are provided through a program or project that the state fully funds.

- This can be found in the legislative budget under LDH- Schedule 9.

Behavioral Health Managed Care – Provides mental health and substance use disorder services managed by Healthy Louisiana, a managed care system for Medicaid adults and children who require specialized behavioral health services.

- This can be found in the legislative budget under LDH- Schedule 9

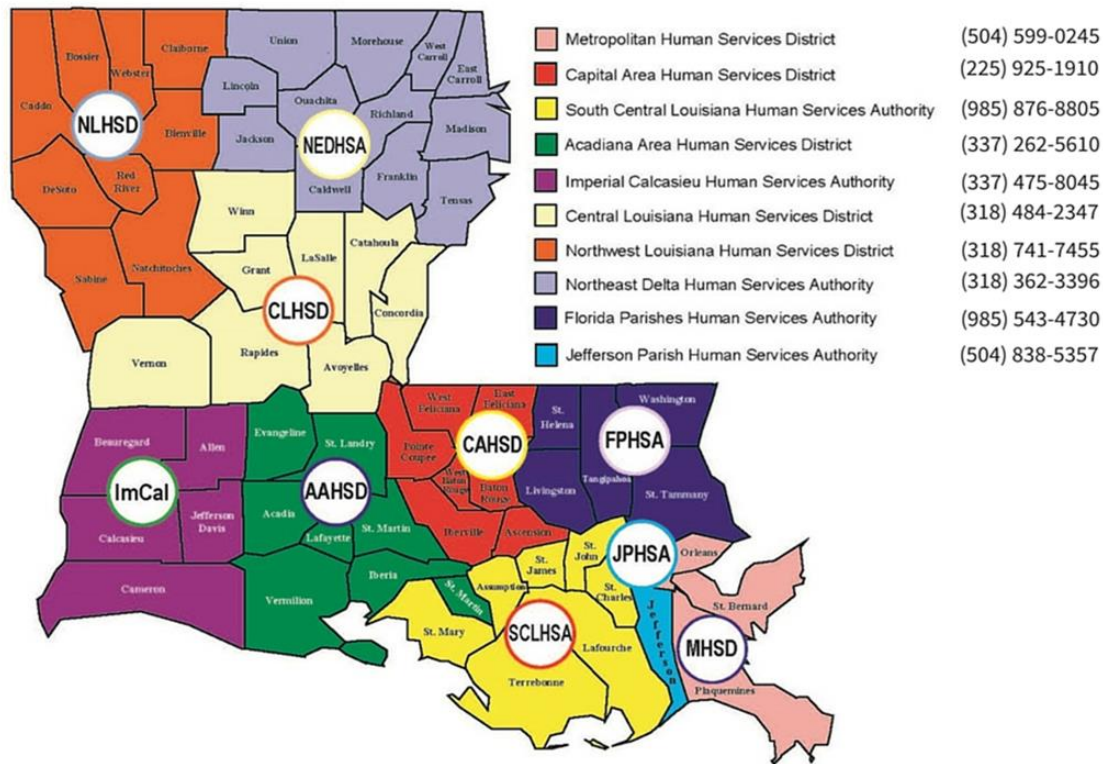
Programs offered to individuals who have disabilities under these three departments are funded by state general funds and then matched with Medicaid dollars based on the current FMAP (federal funding formula)

- Both funding streams provide a range of services and support for children and adults with disabilities and their families.

Before we discuss the services available to families and individuals with disabilities, let's talk about eligibility. Let's discuss the **Office for Citizens with Developmental Disability (OCDD)** first. The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) serves as the Single Point of Entry into the developmental disabilities services system through the regional human service authority or district offices.

To find out if you or someone you know is eligible for OCDD services, contact your local human services district or authority [here](#). Or see below:

Regional Human Service Authority or District Offices



[The Louisiana Developmental Disabilities law](#) (R.S. 28:451.1 – 28:455.2) defines a developmental disability as either:

- A severe chronic disability that:
 - Is caused by an intellectual or physical impairment, or a combination of intellectual and physical impairments,
 - Is present before the person turns 22,
 - Is likely to continue throughout the person's life,
 - Will result in a substantial functional limitation in three or more areas of major life activity (self-care, language, learning, mobility, self-direction, independent living, economic self-sufficiency),
 - Is not solely due to a mental illness, and
 - Indicates that a person will need a combination and sequence of individually planned care, treatment or other services that will be lifelong or for an extended period.
- A developmental disability may also be a substantial developmental delay or a specific condition in a person (either present at birth or acquired) that presents before age 9 that, without services and support, will likely result in a severe chronic disability as outlined above.

OCDD services are programs that include the following:

Community Services:

Early Steps early intervention program – Early Intervention supports are community-based services that are provided to individuals who have challenges that might hinder their ability to grow and learn. Our therapists and social workers drive to what we call the child's natural environment, which is where the child lives, plays, and/or interacts with caregivers such as the home or child care center. <https://ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/early-steps> . Logging in to this site will take you to the provider policies and procedures, as well as information and important resources for families.

- Providers deliver services in the child's home, childcare, or another community setting typical for children aged birth to 3 years.

Family Service Coordination – Provides Family Service Coordination Services through the Early Steps Program for families with infants and toddlers ages birth to 3 years who have a medical condition and/or developmental delays. Staff work with families to assess needs and identify services for children.

Flexible Family Funds - Monthly stipends for families of eligible children (birth to 18 years) with severe or profound developmental disabilities to help their families meet extraordinary costs.

- Local Governing Entities administer the funds on a first-come, first-served basis.

Individual and Family Support (IFS) - IFS provides support services and assistance that might not be available from other resources. These services include respite care, personal assistance services, specialized clothing, dental and medical services, equipment and supplies, communication services, crisis intervention, specialized utility costs, specialized nutrition, and family education. Services are provided through contractual agreements by private provider agencies or through individualized agreements with individuals and families who obtain their own service providers

My Place Louisiana: My Place Louisiana assists individuals with developmental disabilities who are currently residing in an intermediate care facility or nursing facility in transitioning from an institution to a home- and community-based living setting of their choice.

- My Place Louisiana also assists children with developmental disabilities who meet eligibility requirements and who are living in a nursing facility, hospital, or rehabilitation hospital to move into a home- and community-based setting that the family chooses.

Medicaid Services:

Home and Community-Based Waiver Services – Medicaid home and community-based waiver programs allow people greater flexibility to choose where they want to live and to use services and supports that best suit their needs. Provided services must represent the least restrictive treatment alternative. Each home and community-based waiver has specific service packages and eligibility requirements. Waiver opportunities depend on funding and are offered based on an individual's need and priority level as determined by their Screening for Urgency of Need (SUN) through the Request for Services Registry.

- Provides support and services tailored to each individual's needs to help people live and participate in their communities. OCDD has a tiered waiver system, meaning we place individuals in the most appropriate waiver to meet their needs.

There are four OCDD Home and Community-Based Waivers:

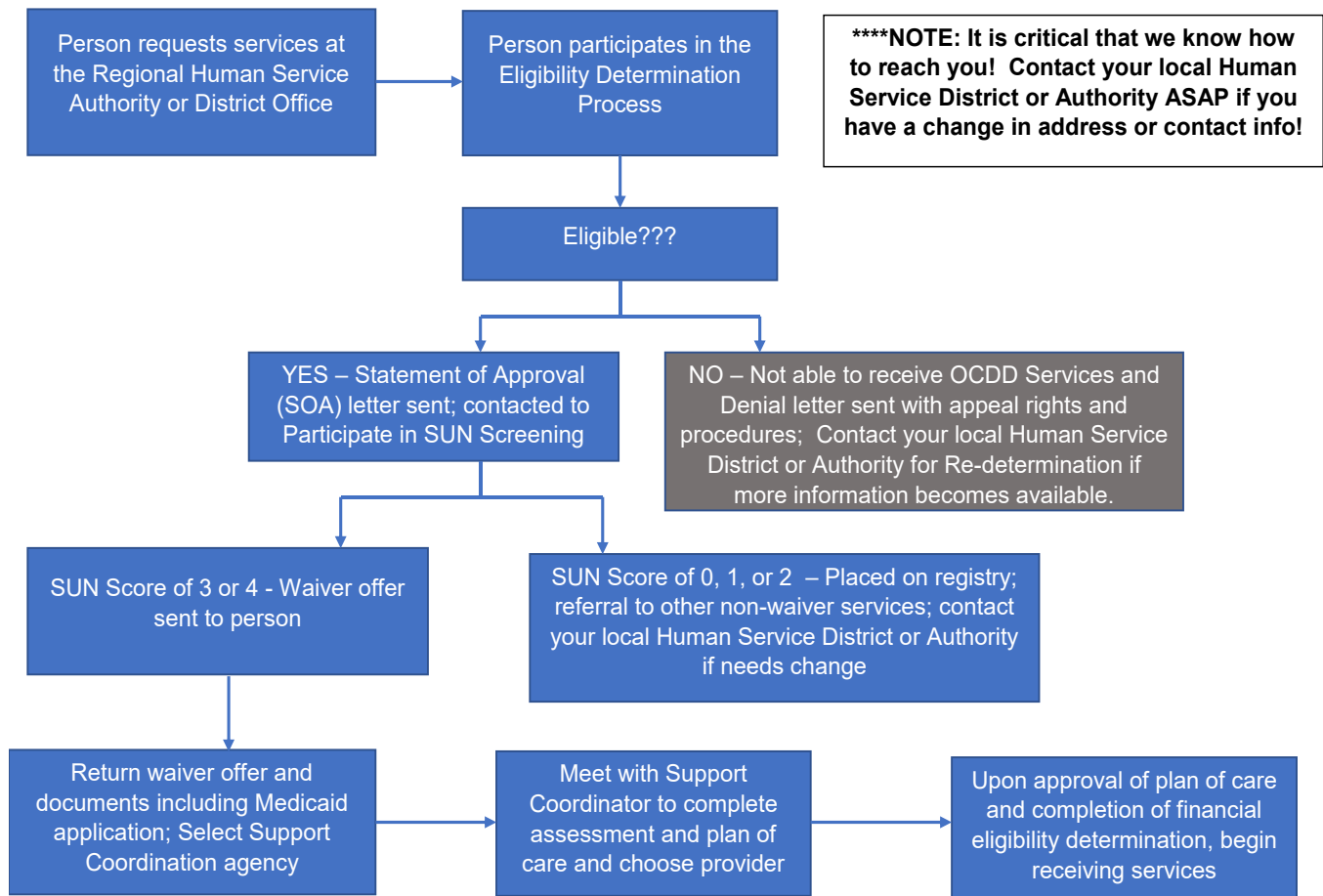
1. Children's Choice (CC) Waiver: The Children's Choice Waiver began February 21, 2001, to offer supplemental support to children with developmental disabilities who currently live at home with their families or with a foster family 0 through 20 years of age. For more information visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/childrens-choice-waiver>. See the fact sheet attached.
2. Supports Waiver (SW): The Supports Waiver began on July 1, 2006, to provide options and meaningful opportunities through vocational and community inclusion for individuals aged 18 and older who meet the eligibility criteria for waiver services. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/supports-waiver>. See the fact sheet attached.
3. Residential Options Waiver (ROW): The Residential Options Waiver, initially approved by CMS on October 1, 2009, began serving its first participants during the 2010 fiscal year. It was developed to assist people in transitioning from Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ICD/IDD) to their own homes in the community. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/residential-options-waiver>. See the attached fact sheet.
4. New Opportunities Waiver (NOW): The New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) began in April 2003, replacing the Mentally Retarded and Developmentally Disabled (MRDD) Waiver. The mission of the NOW is to use the principles of self-determination to supplement family and/or community support, while maintaining dignity, quality of life, and security in the everyday lives of people, and to keep the Recipient in the community. See the fact sheet attached. For more

information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/new-opportunities-waiver> or see the attached fact sheet

Below is a chart of the process of determining eligibility and the process of receiving waiver services:

Process for receiving Waiver services

FLOWCHART OF PROCESS FROM REQUESTING DD SERVICES TO OBTAINING WAIVER SERVICES



Once an individual is determined eligible, they will choose a support coordination agency, develop a plan of care, and determine which services are needed to keep them in the community of their choosing and out of institutional care.

People with disabilities may also receive services through **other bureaus and programs in the Louisiana Department of Health**. These included, but are not limited to the following:

ICF/IID – Often referred to as ICF/IDD (Intermediate Care Facility/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities) It offers a small, family-like home setting where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live and receive all the supports that are needed to live as independently as possible.

- Providers are responsible for ALL care and services needed, and staff are provided 24/7. Homes are typically located in neighborhoods of single-family homes. These homes are NOT institutional.
- Providers coordinate medical care and advocacy, behavioral and mental health supports, recreation and social opportunities, work training and job placement services, transportation, management of personal finances and assist with the management of all other personal affairs. Providers are reimbursed on a per diem rate and are responsible for the cost of all of these services.

Note: Large state institutions are also ICF/IDDs (Pinecrest Supports and Services Center), but almost all others are community-based.

State-run residential facilities that provide individuals with 24-hour support, active treatment, and ongoing evaluation and planning. These facilities are large. There are two facilities that are state-operated:

- Pinecrest Supports and Services Center
- Central Louisiana Supports and Services Center

The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) administers home and community-based long-term care services (HCBS) through various waiver and state plan programs for individuals who are elderly or have disabilities, assisting them to remain in their homes and in the community. The intent of these HCBS programs is to provide services and supports that are not otherwise available and that assist an individual to remain in or return to the community.

- HCBS programs do not individually or in combination provide 24-hour-per-day supports.

OAAS services are programs that include the following:

Community Services:

Permanent Supportive Housing: The Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program helps people with the most severe and complex disabilities live successfully in the community by combining individualized, community-based services with affordable rental housing. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/permanent-supportive-housing-psh>.

Traumatic Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund Program: The Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund (THSCI) was created by the Louisiana Legislature in 1993 through Act 654, which imposes additional fees on motor vehicle violations for driving under the influence, reckless operation, and speeding. These fees fund this program. The Trust Fund Program provides services in a flexible, individualized manner to Louisiana citizens with traumatic head or traumatic spinal cord injuries. The program enables individuals to return to a reasonable level of functioning and independent living in their communities. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/traumatic-head-spinal-cord-injury-trust-fund-program>. See fact sheet attached

State Personal Assistance Services Program: The State Personal Assistance Services program provides support and services to adults with significant disabilities. These services assist with activities of daily living, and will enhance their employability and/or help them avoid unnecessary institutionalization. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/SPAS>. See the fact sheet attached

Nursing Facilities: Nursing facilities provide 24-hour rehabilitative, restorative, and ongoing skilled nursing care to patients or residents who need assistance with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dressing, transferring, toileting, and eating. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/nursing-facility-services>.

- The Office of Aging and Adult Services (OAAS) is responsible for processing admission requests for nursing facilities statewide. Those interested in nursing facility care may apply directly to their chosen nursing facility or contact Louisiana Options in Long-Term Care to apply for pre-admission certification.
- OAAS operates one long-term care facility called Villa Feliciana Medical Complex in Jackson. Villa Feliciana provides specialized care and rehabilitative services to medically complex residents. Learn more about Villa Feliciana Medical Complex [here](#).

My Place Louisiana: Adults ages 65 and older or adults with a physical disability (who developed the disability at age 22 or later) residing in nursing facilities who meet My Place Louisiana program eligibility requirements can receive My Place Louisiana assistance to transition from a qualified institution to a home and community-based living setting of the individual's choice. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/OAAS-My-Place-Louisiana>.

Medicaid programs: To apply for these services, call 1-877-456-1146.

Long-Term Personal Care Services: The Long-Term Personal Care Services program provides assistance with activities of daily living to people who qualify under the program guidelines. This program does not, individually or in combination with other OAAS programs, provide 24-hour-a-day support. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/LTPCS>. See the fact sheet attached.

Community Choices Waiver: The Community Choices Waiver (CCW) serves seniors and persons with adult-onset disabilities as an alternative to nursing facility care. The CCW offers a wide array of services, including support coordination; nursing and skilled therapy assessments and services; in-home monitoring systems; home modifications and assistive technologies; personal care; home-delivered meals; monitored in-home caregiving; and caregiver respite. For more information, see <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/community-choices-waiver-ccw>. See the fact sheet

Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE): This program coordinates and provides all needed preventive, primary, acute and long-term care services so that older people can continue living in the community. The emphasis is on enabling senior citizens to remain in their communities while enhancing their quality of life. For more information, visit <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/PACE>. See the fact sheet attached.

Adult Day Health Care Waiver: The Adult Day Health Care Waiver (ADHC) is a community-based service delivered in an adult day health center, which provides supervised care to adults in a supportive and safe setting during part of the day. Services provided by staff at licensed ADHC facilities include personal care assistance, health education, health screening, medication management, and others. For more information, <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/ADHC-waiver>. See fact sheet attached.

Behavioral Health services are programs that include the following:

The Human Service Districts/Authorities (HSDA) currently treat adults and children with serious behavioral health conditions or emotional disturbances at clinics throughout the state.

These behavioral health clinics provide a variety of services, including

- screening and assessment;
- emergency crisis care;
- individual evaluation and treatment;
- medication administration and management;
- clinical casework services;
- specialized services for children and adolescents;
- specialized criminal justice services;

- specialized services for the elderly; and
- pharmacy services.

The inability to pay does not affect the receipt of service.

Coordinated System of Care (CSoC): Louisiana's Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) is the state's effort to implement this philosophy and approach. Serves children 5-21 years of age.

The Coordinated System of Care (CSoC) brings together the Department of Health (Office of Behavioral Health and Medicaid); the Department of Children & Family Services; the Department of Education; the Office of Juvenile Justice; the Governor's Office; and family, youth and advocate representatives to establish a service delivery system that is better integrated, has enhanced service offerings and achieves improved outcomes. By establishing CSoC, we can help ensure that young people with significant behavioral health challenges who are in or at risk of out-of-home placement (such as group homes, juvenile detention facilities, or residential treatment centers) can receive the supports and services they need. Specific goals for the CSoC include:

- Improving the overall outcomes for enrolled children/youth and their caregivers
- Decreasing the number of youth in residential/detention settings
- Reducing the state's cost of providing services by leveraging Medicaid and other funding sources

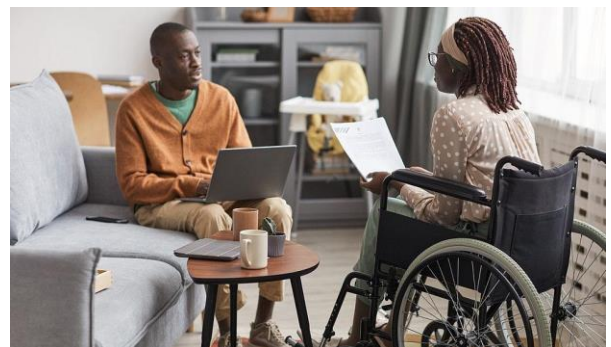
CSoC is a philosophy and approach in which children and youth with significant behavioral health challenges receive the necessary services and supports within their homes and communities. In this process, the family and child/youth partner with a team of people they choose and work together to develop a plan that meets their needs, rather than having other people develop a plan for them. Combining all services into a single coordinated plan fosters better communication and collaboration among families, state agencies, providers, and others who support them for more information visit <https://ldh.la.gov/page/5328>

Mental Health Services: The Office of Behavioral Health provides statewide authority and accountability for all behavioral healthcare, including mental health treatment services, for Louisiana residents. This includes coordinating with other agencies and partnering entities that deliver and manage components of care for the behavioral health population, both insured and uninsured (e.g., Medicaid, human services districts/authorities).

- Legislation mandates that the local administration of the Louisiana behavioral healthcare system, including both community and residential services, is operated by independent Local Governing Entities (LGEs).
- The Office of Behavioral Health maintains two state psychiatric hospitals at Central Louisiana State Hospital (CLSH) in Pineville and the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (ELMHS) in Jackson.

Behavioral Health Service Providers can be found by visiting

<https://ldh.la.gov/directory/category/hss-behavioral-health-services-provider>



If you need further assistance, you can contact The Arc of Louisiana at 225-383-1033 or visit our website at www.thearca.org.