Helping Families Navigate Medicaid Waiver System
What is a Waiver?

Waivers are a part of a state’s Medicaid system targeted to a specific population to provide specific services. They are so named because they allow a state to “waive” some of the requirements of Medicaid.

Waivers were created in 1981 to allow states flexibility to offer different types of services to individuals with disabilities.

The financial criteria is *based only on the income and resources of the individual*. Waives parents income and resources.

Approval = Medicaid Card
What is a Waiver?

Medicaid Waivers are a way to pay for services that help a person with a disability live their life.

- Those services can be things like;
  - Help getting dressed or taking a shower,
  - Help shopping for food or help cooking food,
  - Learning and practicing new skills,
  - Job training and help finding a job that you like,
  - And many other services
Currently, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities administers four waivers: the Individual Options (IO) waiver, the Level I waiver (LI), the SELF Waiver and the Transitions (TDD) Waiver.

County boards manage these waivers at a local level. If you are enrolled on a waiver in one county in Ohio and move to another county the waiver will transfer with you and will be managed by the new county of residence.

There are waiting lists for the Individual Options (IO) waiver, the Level I waiver (LI), and the SELF Waiver. The Transitions (TDD) Waiver is a closed waiver, meaning no new individuals can enroll on the Transitions (TDD) Waiver. It was a waiver created to transition individuals enrolled on the Ohio Home Care Waiver to the IO Waiver.
Waiting Lists for Waiver Services

- WCBDD maintains a waiting list for Individual Options Waivers, Level One and SELF Waivers
  - Individual Options Waiver Waiting List - 670 individuals
  - Level One Waiver Waiting List – 350 individuals
  - Self Waiver Waiting List- 561 individuals

- Katrina Steele maintains the Waiting List. If families have questions regarding waiting list rank, etc. – please refer to:
  - Katrina Steele at 513-228-6432
  - Email: Katrina.Steele@warrencountydd.org

- If individuals are interested in being added to the Waiting List they should contact WCBDD Intake Specialists:
  - Brenda Alexander 513-518-5323 Brenda.Alexander@warrencountydd.org
  - Amy Spencer 513-803-3780 Amy.Spencer@warrencountydd.org
Questions You Might Have:

• Which waiver best fits your needs?

• Where can I find a list of service options?

• What are the eligibility requirements?

• Are there other services available to me while I am on the waiting list?
Which waiver best fits your needs?

**Level One Waivers**
- Targeted for individuals living with family members
- The Waiting List for the Level 1 waiver is shorter so this is a good waiver to utilize while you remain on the waiting list for the Individual Options Waiver.
- Costs for HPC, Respite, and transportation cannot exceed $5,325 annually
- Costs for equipment and home modifications cannot exceed $7,500 every three years
- Emergency Level One three year cap of $8,520

**Individual Options Waivers (IO)**
- Funding source for individuals in group homes and supported living apartments, houses, or at home with families
- Costs for HPC, Respite, transportation can range from $5,325-$500,000 yr. based upon person’s assessed funding range
- Costs for equipment cannot exceed $10,000 and home modifications cannot exceed $7,500 annually

**The Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) waiver is unique because...**

The SELF waiver is Ohio's first participant-directed waiver. Participant direction means individuals with developmental disabilities have authority to make decisions about their waiver services, and accept responsibility for taking a direct role in managing services.

SELF waiver limits include:

- Adults: Up to $40,000/year
- Children: Up to $25,000/year

SELF service limits include:

- Support Brokerage: $8,000
- Functional Behavioral Assessment: $1,500
- Remote Monitoring Equipment: $5,000

Any combination of the following services may not exceed $25,000 annually:

- Community Inclusion
- Residential Respite
- Remote Monitoring
- Community Respite

Navigating Waivers
Where can I find a list of service options?

- There are handbooks describing each waiver on the Ohio Department of DD Website.
- Your Service Coordinator can also assist you in looking at options.

[Image of Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities website]
Services Available with the Level 1 Waiver

- Homemaker/Personal Care
- Respite
- Specialized Medical Equipment
- Environmental Accessibility
- Emergency Services

- Adult Day Services
- Transportation
- Personal emergency response system (PERS)
Services Available with the Individual Options Waiver

- Homemaker/Personal Care
- Respite Care
- Adult Day Services
- Supported Employment
- Environmental accessibility adaptations
- Specialized medical, adaptive equipment & supplies
- Home Delivered Meals
- Interpreter Services
- Nutrition Service
- Social Work / Counseling
- Transportation
Services Available with the Self Waiver

Self Empowered Life Funding (SELF) Waivers
- Individuals must be willing to perform duties associated with participant direction through exercising budget authority or employer authority for at least one waiver service.
- Individuals must be able to have their health and welfare needs met through the SELF waiver services.
  - Services:
    - Support Brokerage
    - Community Inclusion
    - Clinical and Therapeutic Intervention
    - Participant Directed Goods and Services
    - Remote Monitoring
    - Residential & Community Respite
    - Adult Day Supports
    - Vocational Habilitation
    - Supported Employment
    - Non-Medical Transportation
What are the eligibility requirements?

- Individuals must be eligible for county board of DD services. (See next slide)

- Individuals must meet an ICFDD Level of Care.

  Intermediate Care Facility for the Developmentally disabled LOC (ICF-DD LOC) relies on the presence of a developmental disability and the individual’s assistance needs for economic independence, communication, capacity for independent living and personal care. A waiver requiring an ICF-DD LOC provides an alternative to institutional care for an individual with developmental disabilities.

- Individuals must be Medicaid eligible and must maintain this Medicaid eligibility without interruptions.
Eligibility FOR COUNTY BOARD OF DD SERVICES

- Eligibility for Warren County DD services is determined by the Intake Coordinator or Help Me Grow depending on the point of entry and based on standard eligibility criteria.

Ohio Department of DD Eligibility Requirements
- Children 0-3 must have one delay
- Children 3-6 must have two delays
- Children 6-16 must have a diagnosis of a mental retardation and/or a developmental disability and then must meet COEDI requirements
- Individuals 16+ must have a diagnosis of mental retardation and/or developmental disability prior to the age of 22 and then must meet OEDI requirements.
What is a COEDI or OEDI?

COEDI - Children’s Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument

OEDI - Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument

- Standardized Tools utilized in the state of Ohio to assess Functional Limitations
- Individuals must have a minimum of three areas of Functional Limitation per the COEDI/OEDI.
  
  A. Mobility
  B. Receptive and Expressive Language
  C. Self-Care
  D. Self-Direction
  E. Capacity for Independent Living
  F. Learning
  G. Economic Self-Sufficiency

Navigating Waivers
Maintaining Your Eligibility

Your waiver eligibility and level of care must be renewed annually, which you will also do through your County Board.

In addition, once enrolled on a waiver, you must meet Medicaid eligibility requirements every month to continue waiver services.
Are there other services available while on the waiting list?

A Waiver is just one way for a person with a disability to get the services they want. They may be able to get the same services and many additional services without a waiver.

- Early Intervention Services for kids birth-3
- Information and Referral
- Family Supports
- Camp
- Toileting Classes
- Behavior Supports and Intensive In Home Supports
- Adult Day Hab Services
- Transition Services
- Recreation
- Dances
- Special Olympics
- Supportive Families and Allies Group
- Voices Speaking Out
- Medicaid State Plan services

Navigating Waivers
Information and Referral

Information and Referral is designed to provide information and support regarding services available to the people served by Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities. This service is primarily for all individuals who qualify for services through the county and have yet to be assigned a service coordinator. We make contact at least one time per year to ensure you know who to contact should you be in need of assistance.

For more information contact:

Ellen Hudson at Ellen.Hudson@warrencountydd.org  
or 513-806-3778
Early Intervention

- Evidence based early intervention assists family members and caregivers to enhance a child’s learning and development through everyday activities and routines. Our Early Intervention program serves children age birth to three who have a medical diagnosis with a high probability of developmental delays, or with a developmental delay in one or more areas equal to 1.5 standard deviations on one or two standardized tests. We also serve children deemed in need or delayed by clinical opinion from an evaluation team in conjunction with the standardized evaluation tool.

- The Early Intervention program receives referrals from the ‘Help Me Grow’ Service Coordinator. Once your child is determined eligible and has an established need, your family’s Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed with you. You and your family will be provided with support from our Early Intervention team, which may be comprised of a Service Coordinator, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, or Developmental Specialist.
Early Intervention

Primary Service Provider Service Model;

- Developmental Specialists
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists

Play Groups and Social Activities – Parents can sign up for Play Groups and Social Activities and can get this information from their Service Coordinator or Primary Service Provider.

PLAY Project – Developed by Dr Richard Solomon for use with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. PLAY Project techniques are appropriate to work with all children. The PLAY Project Home consultant emphasizes the importance of helping parents become their child’s best PLAY partner.

For general questions about Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities Early Intervention please contact;

Kelly Brooks–Early Intervention Manager at Kelly.Brooks@warrencountydd.org  513-228-6520

To make a referral for Early Intervention contact;
Warren County Help Me Grow at 513-695-4769 or HMG@warrencountyesc.com or visit www.ohiohelpmegrow.org
Family Supports

- **Mission** - The Family Supports program provides financial assistance and support in finding resources to meet the needs of the enrolled individual.

- **ODDD Definition**: A family support services program assists a family who keeps at home a family member with developmental disability. The program promotes the unity of the family by assisting it to meet the special needs of the individual with a developmental disability. It also assists the individual to maximize self-sufficiency and prevent inappropriate placement outside of the home/institutionalization.

- To be eligible, a family must include an individual living at home who is eligible for the services from county board.

- "Family," as stated in this rule, means parent(s), brother(s), sister(s), spouse(s), son(s), daughter(s), grandparent(s), aunt(s), uncle(s), cousin(s), or guardian(s) of the individual with mental retardation or developmental disabilities and includes the individual with developmental disabilities. "Family" also means person(s) acting in a role similar to those specified in this paragraph even though no legal or blood relationship exists if the individual with developmental disabilities lives with the person(s) and is dependent on the person to the extent that if the supports were withdrawn another living arrangement would have to be found.
Family Supports

► The maximum cap for an eligible family with one eligible family member with a developmental disability is $2500

► The maximum cap for a family having more than one “eligible” family member with a developmental disabilities is $4000

► Individuals receiving waiver funding are not eligible. Examples of services provided by Family Supports include, but are not limited to:
  - medical supplies
  - adaptive equipment
  - home modifications
  - feeding equipment and supplies for individuals with special diets
  - respite care

For more information contact:

Katrina Steele
Family Supports Coordinator
Katrina.Steele@warrencountydd.org
513-228-6432

Navigating Waivers
Camp and Toileting Classes

Camp
Warren County Board of DD currently has a contract with Camp Kern for summer day camp and residential camp. Camp can also be funded through Family Supports and Waivers.

For more information contact:
Katrina Steele
Katrina.Steele@warrencountydd.org
513-228-6432

Toileting Classes
Envision contract
Will provide an in-depth look at the multiple components involved in assessing toileting readiness, determining necessary preparations and adaptations, and successful implementation. For more information contact:

For more information contact:
Chrissy Barton
Chrissy.Barton@warrencountydd.org
513-228-6429
Behavior Supports AND Intensive In Home Supports

Behavior Supports

- *Provide coaching for staff and family* in positive behavior supports. Provide assessment in the home environment and observations in school environments to build on successes at school and transfer those successes into home environment. Communicate, consult and coordinate with school personnel.

Solutions Mental Health Contract for Intensive In Home Supports

- In-Home services are designed to work with children with intensive behavioral needs and their families within the home environment who are experiencing difficulty functioning as a family unit.

- Provides family service coordinator in the home to coordinate behavior modification intervention using trauma-based cognitive behavior therapy model.

- Evaluation and assessment by a psychiatrist and on-going med-somatic appointments during the time of service, if needed.

- Contact the WCBDD Service and Support Coordinator assigned to the individual for referral or Information and Referral.

To make referrals contact Chris Smith, Support Services Director at Christopher.Smith@warrencountydd.org or 513-228-6449
Adult Services

Work Center –

The Work Center at Production Services Unlimited (PSU) offers employment opportunities to a range of skilled workers seeking to have meaningful work in an environment that is positive and encouraging to their interests, goals and skill levels. The employees are provided a variety of work options, while building employability and skills and participating in work-education programs. Employees of PSU are paid minimum wage or piece rate depending upon the specific work activities and in accordance with Department of Labor regulations. PSU employees and staff members work together to accomplish each individual’s goal of community employment.

Habilitation –

The Habilitation Program at PSU provides training that can benefit a wide range of individuals. Habilitation groups focus both on vocational and non-vocational activities. Staff members encourage participation in paid work activities, reinforce social skills, build upon educational skills and encourage increased participation in activities of daily living. The program offers volunteer opportunities, community integration activities, social enrichment and personal skill-building classes.
Adult Services

Enclave/Work Crews –

- Enclaves and Work Crews are small work groups that provide vocational training in specific types of employment settings. All enclave and work crew employees earn minimum wage for their work. These small crews are supervised by a staff member who provides on-the-job training experiences at an off-site location. Enclaves and Work Crews are a direct bridge to community employment.

For more information contact:

Heather Moore
Director
Heather.Moore@warrencountydd.org
(513) 228-6467
Community Employment –

- Community Employment services are designed to assist individuals with developmental disabilities in obtaining and maintaining employment. A wide array of services are offered to support someone on his/her path to employment. Employment Developers work with the job seeker to assist with resume development, submitting applications, developing interview skills, and providing support during an interview. Job Coaches work with newly hired employees to assist with learning the functions of a new job and meeting expectations of the employer. Also, Follow Along services provide a long-term, intermittent support to individuals who are currently community employed. A Work Incentives Coordinator is certified in the area of benefits analysis and is available to offer benefits counseling to those who are currently employed or those who are interested in employment but are unsure of the impact on their current benefits. The community employment department partners with state and local agencies to provide the best employment experience for job seekers.

For more information contact:

Angela Dean, Community Employment Manager

Angela.Dean@warrencountydd.org 513-228-6481
Adult Services

Transition Program –

Transition services through WCBDD are designed to assist the student with making a smooth transition from school into the adult world. The transition process is a team approach developed around the needs of the individual student. During the time spent in this program, the goal will be to assist the student with gaining the skills needed to leave school confidently. Some of the areas that are addressed are: social skills, work skills, public safety, self-advocacy, independent thinking, decision making skills, and activities of daily living. Transition Coordinators partner with local schools, families, community agencies and the student to develop and implement appropriate programming. By helping to develop skills and through programming and real life experiences, the students will gain more independence and transition to adulthood in a safe and successful environment.

For more information contact:

Brittany Conner, Transition Manager

Brittany.Conner@warrencountydd.org 513-228-6481
Recreation & Education opportunities

- Job Club for the Community Employed
- Monday Night “Rec” Program
- Themed Dances, Days, and Events
- Direct Link to Special Olympics and Senior Olympics

For more information contact:
Rhonda Schutte
Rhonda.Schutte@warrencountydd.org
513-806-3809
Voices Speaking Out is a Self-Advocacy Group consisting of individuals who receive services from the Warren County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The group meets monthly to discuss individual rights and responsibilities, to develop self-advocacy skills, to advocate for systems change, and to get involved in the community.

For more information contact:
Ellen Hudson at Ellen.Hudson@warrencountydd.org
or 513-806-3778
Ohio Medicaid Covered Services

Ohio Medicaid programs provides a comprehensive package of services that includes preventive care for consumers. Some services are limited by dollar amount, number of visits per year, or setting in which they can be provided.

- Alcohol and Drug Addiction
- Mental Health
- Family Planning
- Emergency
- Dental
- Health Checks
- Medical Equipment
- Vision
- Prescriptions
- Professional Medical Services
- Transportation
We hope this presentation was helpful! Thank you!