

# Fact Sheet:

## Intellectual Disability Waivers

### Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS)

#### What is a waiver?

The term refers to the “waiving” of certain federal regulations to allow states to provide services in a person’s home or community (Home and Community Based Services) setting rather than in an intermediate care facility utilizing federal funding. There are several waivers in Pennsylvania. Each waiver has eligibility criteria that can include needed level of care (LOC), diagnosis, and financial limitations. Two waivers are especially for people with a diagnosis of intellectual disability (formerly MR). The first step to accessing these waivers in Philadelphia is through registration with the Philadelphia Intellectual disability Services (IDS).

#### What waivers are available in the Intellectual Disability Service system?

- **The Consolidated Waiver**

The Consolidated Waiver provides services to persons with significant needs. Consolidated Waiver may provide for services in a residential setting or services an individual needs to remain in their own or family / friends home.

- **The Person/Family Directed Support Waiver (P/FDS)**

The P/FDS Waiver provides services to support individuals to continue to live in their family / friends homes and to support those who need minimal services to live independently. P/FDS does not pay for residential settings and cannot provide services to individuals living in a state-licensed residential setting or a personal care home with occupancy of more than 10 persons. The waiver is limited to providing \$30,000.00 worth of services per year (a \$30,000.00 fiscal cap).

#### What are some of the criteria must be met to be eligible for these waivers?

- Be registered for services with the Philadelphia IDS\*
- Be 3 years of age or older
- Require the appropriate level of care (LOC)
- Be financially eligible. \*\*

*\*For additional information see Fact Sheets: How to Register for Intellectual Disability Services and Eligibility for Intellectual Disability Services.*

*\*\*Income and assets\*\* (any bank accounts or cashable life insurance or burial accounts) may not total more than the allowable limit. Only the individual’s income and assets are counted. No other family members affect financial eligibility. The PA Department of Human Services (formerly DPW) sets and reviews this amount annually and it is subject to change at that time. Check with your Supports Coordinator or County Assistance Office for the current requirements.*

## **Where does waiver funding come from?**

Waiver funds are a combination of State and Federal dollars. The state and federal match ratio varies in different states. In Pennsylvania, the ratio is nearly 50/50.

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

When you initially register with Philadelphia IDS waiver funding will be discussed with you by a Registration Specialist. The Service Preference form and Home and Community Based Waiver application will be re-viewed with you. These documents indicate your preference and application for waiver funding; however, they do not admit you into the waiver program.

Your Supports Coordinator (SC) will review your needs using the Prioritization of Urgency of Need form (PUNS). PUNS information is shared with the County and State and is used to prioritize individuals by urgency of need for support. You should inform your SC any time your needs change. You will be informed when funding is available and be assisted by your SC in arranging services.

*For additional information see the Fact Sheets Supports Coordination, PUNS and ISP: Individual Support Plan.*

## **What can I do to prepare as I wait for funding to become available?**

Your Supports Coordinator can work with you to be sure the following information is in order:

1. Physical Exam completed and signed by a physician. The exam must be completed within one year prior to admission into the waiver program. It must state that you are eligible for an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID).
2. Documentation of financial eligibility. This must include proof that the individual has less than \$8,000.00 in assets from resources such as life insurance policies, stocks, bonds, checking and savings accounts, etc. The financial information will be documented on a PA-600, a PA Department of Human Services (PA DHS) Application that your Supports Coordinator will review with you.
3. Documentation that the person has a monthly income within the allowed limit.

*(Pa DHS reviews these amounts annually and it is subject to change at that time. Check with your Supports Coordinator or County Assistance Office for the current income limit as well as what is included in assets and income)*

4. Birth certificate or baptismal certificate and Social Security Card.
5. Psychological evaluation signed by a psychologist or psychiatrist which documents a full scale IQ of 70 or below and a diagnosis of the level of intellectual disability prior to the age of 22.
6. A Functional Assessment of Needs completed. If a functional / adaptive assessment is not included in the psychological evaluation your Supports Coordinator will inform you of next steps.

Waiver funded services and supports are limited by the funds available and the specific needs of the person. Natural and community supports and services should continue to be utilized. Alternative funding options should be explored and exhausted prior to using waiver funding as waiver is the payer of last resort.

## **How do I learn about what services can be provided by an ID waiver?**

You can refer to the Fact Sheet: *ID Services, Providers and Delivery* and talk to your Supports Coordinator.

## **How do I learn about waivers outside of the ID System?**

To find out if you qualify for other waivers in Pennsylvania you can contact your SC or visit the PA Department of Human Services website. You can only have one waiver at any given time.

Thank you to Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Intellectual Disability 9/2015