

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About the Community Developmental Disabilities grants (CDDG) Ending and Transition Resources

### 1) What is a waiver and how do I learn more about that?

**Response:** A waiver is a Medicaid program where certain rules are “waived” so that expanded services can be provided to eligible people who experience developmental disabilities. The purpose of waiver supports is to ensure people remain in community settings. An example of a waiver support is supported employment.

### 2) Who can help me register (sign up) to be considered for the new waiver?

**Response:** You can sign up yourself at <https://ddregistration.dhss.alaska.gov/> using your Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) number. Or you can ask a Short Term Assistance and Referral (STAR) representative, your guardian, or your current grant service provider to help you.

### 3) What is a Level of Care (LOC) and do I want one?

**Response:** A LOC is a process that says who is eligible to participate in a Medicaid Home and Community Based (HCBS) Services waiver program. It involves gathering information about you and your abilities so we can let you know if you meet the level of care that would be provided in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). This is a very specific process that helps us determine if you qualify for Medicaid waiver services funding. This funding can ensure you have access to support to help you be as independent as possible and develop skills you need to live a full life in your community. Here is a link to our LOC process: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/SDSforms/IDD-06guidelinesforICAPProcess.pdf>

### 4) How would I find out what the cost of my grant services are now? Do I need to know that?

**Response:** Ask your current provider(s) and they will provide this to you. Knowing the cost of your care empowers you to make choices.

### 5) If I do not think a waiver is what I want, are there other resources I can use?

**Response:** Our State may have resources for you, depending on your interests. Please talk with your current provider or a STAR representative about your choices and they will offer you information.

Resources they may offer include:

Help finding work: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation:

<http://labor.alaska.gov/dvr/home.htm> or call 1-800-478-2815

Alaska Job Centers: <http://jobs.alaska.gov/offices/> or call 1-877-724-2539.

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Help finding preventive care for my child: Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (**EPSDT**) is the child health component of Medicaid. Federal statutes and regulations state that children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid are entitled to **EPSDT** benefits and that States must cover a broad array of preventive and treatment services. Here is a link to a resource: [http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Pages/epsdt\\_hcs.aspx](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dhcs/Pages/epsdt_hcs.aspx)  
Help being more independent in my community: Independent Living Centers: <http://www.virtualcil.net/cils/query-iandr.php?state=ak>

Help with Activities of Daily Living: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/pca/default.aspx>  
Sometimes people qualify for help in their home through the Personal Care Services program. Ask your STAR or provider about this option.

Help knowing about resources in your community: <http://www.alaska211.org/> or call 211 or 1- 800-478-2221

Help with advocacy: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/aboutus/default.aspx> or call 1 888 269 8990.

### 6) How do I become eligible for Medicaid? What if I think I do not qualify for Medicaid?

**Response Part 1:** In order to receive Medicaid benefits, you must apply. There are multiple ways to apply for Medicaid benefits in Alaska. You may apply online at [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov) or through the Self-Service Portal at [MyAlaska](http://MyAlaska), or submit a paper Application for Services to any Division of Public Assistance office. More information about Medicaid benefits can be found online at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/pages/medicaid/default.aspx>

You also can ask your STAR coordinator or Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) representative to help you start the application process.

**Response Part 2:** The only way to know for sure if you are eligible for Medicaid benefits or not is to apply. Even if you have been determined ineligible for Medicaid benefits in the past, it is worth applying again as eligibility criteria may have changed. Do not make a decision not to apply based on a past Medicaid denial. Instead, let the Division of Public Assistance evaluate your current circumstances.

There are options available to help individuals manage their income or resources in order to qualify for Medicaid benefits. For example, did you know that Alaska now allows some individuals with disabilities to establish ABLE accounts that can help them save money? Learn more about ABLE accounts at: <https://savewithable.com/ak/home.html> and <http://dhss.alaska.gov/gcdse/Pages/db101.aspx>

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### 7) Who should be helping me with if my grant supports might be ending or if I want to know more about the limited supports waiver?

**Response:** Your planning team through your grant agency or a STAR coordinator or ADRC representative. Here is a link to STAR:

[http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/grantservices/PDFs/STAR\\_Roster.pdf](http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Documents/grantservices/PDFs/STAR_Roster.pdf)

Here is a link for ADRCs information: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/adrc/default.aspx>

Please revisit this site as we plan to update these FAQs to include new questions and answers.

## FAQ's for Providers

### 1. We are serving an individual who received a Developmental Disability (DD) eligibility before DS3 and we cannot locate their letter, do we have to submit an all new application and supporting documentation for them?

**Response:** Yes, we need to have updated information on all individuals receiving services. If someone does not have active Developmental Disabilities (DD) eligibility status, please assist them in to gather required documentation and to submit a new application to the SDS I/DD Unit.

### 2. We are serving some individuals with grant funds who are not on the Development Disabilities Registration and Review (DDRR waitlist). Do all recipients need to complete an updated DDRR in order to be eligible for the Supports Waiver?

**Response:** Anyone who would like to be considered for services provided through the current comprehensive Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) waiver or the new DD "limited supports" waiver must be on the DDRR waitlist. All individuals who want to be considered for either waiver are invited to create a new registration or to update their current profile at: <https://ddregistration.dhss.alaska.gov/>

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- 3. We are serving an individual who we do not think will be eligible for the IDD Waiver. How will this person continue to be served?**

**Response:** SDS is the only entity that can determine whether or not an individual meets Level of care for IDD. Please continue to assist all grant recipients to complete the DRR process and any other steps which include applying for Medicaid.

- 4. Our FY2018 grant award is much less than it was in FY2017, should we plan on providing the same level of services to individuals for 6 months or reduce their services by half so the grant funds can last a whole year?**

**Response:** Your SDS grant manager will work with you to adjust your planned services.

- 5. Is the state notifying individuals of these changes or is the grant provider supposed to notify them?**

**Response:** SDS sent everyone receiving grant services and everyone on the current DRR waitlist a letter. Providers can assist individuals with completing the necessary paperwork or refer them to a STAR program.