



The Council and the SILC Support the Refinancing of the Community Developmental Disability Grant Program.

WHAT IS IT?

The Community Developmental Disabilities Grant (CDDG) focuses on the specific needs of individuals with developmental disabilities for the meaningful acquisition or maintenance of skills needed to live and maintain a constant capacity for improvement and successful independence.

- Some of the services funded in the CDDG are supported employment, respite care, care coordination, day habilitation, case management, and specialized medical equipment, through grants to provider agencies.
- Per the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS) SFY2016 Continuum of Care, 1,971 individuals were served by programs within the CDDG, at an average per person cost of \$6,712.
- Many of the individuals receiving CDDG services are on the Developmental Disabilities Registration and Review (DDRR) (the "waiting list"), waiting to be selected for the IDD Waiver.
- The Governor has directed DSDS to apply for a second 1915(c) waiver, to be called the "Limited Supports" waiver, to offer the State of Alaska an opportunity to shift eligible recipients from the 100% state general funded CDDG to a 50% Medicaid federal match.
- Programs in the CDD component that are not impacted by the reduction to the Community Developmental Disabilities Grant include Short Term Assistance and Referral (STAR), Student Life Center, Behavior/ Risk Management, Deaf Navigator, and Protection and Advocacy.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Developing a Medicaid 1915(c) "Limited Supports" waiver means many of the services funded through the CDDG program with 100% state dollars will be offered in a Medicaid 1915(c) "Limited Supports" waiver, with the state receiving a 50% federal funding match, to serve those Alaskans with I/DD with limited supports, some of whom are waiting to be drawn for the I/DD waiver.

The availability of waiver services helps to prevent institutionalization which is more costly, in addition to promoting access to the greater community.

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HOW WILL THIS WORK?

DSDS has determined that most individuals currently receiving CDDG services would likely also meet the eligibility criteria for a home and community based waiver. DSDS is actively working with providers and analyzing the grant recipient information to develop a transition plan for recipients who will move from the grant to the new "Limited Supports" waiver.

- Per DSDS staff, looking at SFY16 data, 78% of the grant recipients were Medicaid eligible, 20% undetermined and 2% identified as over-resource for Medicaid. DSDS staff is engaging with providers to assist recipients with applying for Medicaid if they are not already Medicaid eligible.
- Per DSDS staff, 66 individuals are currently receiving CDDG services do not have an active developmental disability determination with DSDS. This is a requirement to receive grant services and will be a requirement for eligibility for the 1915(c) "Limited Supports" waiver. DSDS is reaching out to CDDG providers to initiate the developmental disabilities determination process for those who do not have an active developmental disability determination.
- DSDS acknowledges that there will be individuals who may not meet the eligibility criteria for the "Limited Supports" waiver for several reasons: not having an active developmental disability determination, not needing an institutional level of care, not being Medicaid eligible, or not requiring at least one home and community based waiver service. DSDS staff is working with CDDG providers and families to determine exact numbers of individuals who will not be able to be supported under the "Limited Supports" waiver.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RESOURCES:

- GCDSE supports the concept of moving those served through the CDD grant on strictly state funded grant services to a 1915(c) "Limited Supports" waiver with a 50% federal Medicaid funding match, leveraging those federal dollars.
 - We stress, however, the extreme importance of making sure that all individuals and families affected by this move are given some level of service.
- GCDSE stands ready to assist DSDS and the state as this transition is made to ensure that all Alaskans with disabilities receiving CDDG services can continue to receive the supports and services they need to prevent institutionalization and thrive in their home communities. Some state only dollars will be left in the program for families and individuals who demonstrate need, but do not fit under the new supports waiver.
 - The Council offers to assist those recipients who may not be Medicaid eligible due to being over program resource limits by helping to educate individuals and families about the new Alaska ABLE Program, a savings account for qualified individuals with disabilities which does not count against them in resource limit calculations for public means tested programs like Medicaid.
 - Alaska ABLE Accounts may help individuals and families be able to pay for some items needed due to a particular disability themselves.

To Learn More About the Alaska ABLE Program, Visit: <https://savewithable.com/ak/home.html>