**Eligibility Criteria for the Department of Developmental Services’**

**Behavioral Services Program (BSP)**

**The following criteria shall be applied to determine eligibility for the Department of Developmental Services’ Behavioral Services Program (DDS BSP)**:

1. The individual (child or adolescent) has already been determined eligible for DDS funding or services, lives in his or her family home, and is requesting in-home supports.
2. The individual has a serious and persistent mental illness as diagnosed in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and as evidenced by a current psychological or psychiatric assessment, resulting in the functional impairment of the individual which substantially interferes with, or limits his or her functioning in family or community activities.
3. The individual is at least 8 years of age, has not reached the age of 18 by the date of application to DDS BSP and is under the age of 21 by the start date of BSP services.
4. A DDS case manager or DDS clinician has conducted a home visit to observe the individual and his or her family and confirmed the recommendation for admission to DDS BSP.
5. A parent or guardian of an individual has reviewed, initialed and signed the DDS BSP Parent or Guardian Agreement and has reviewed the DDS BSP procedure with a DDS case manager.
6. A parent or guardian of the individual has agreed to apply for and maintain active Medicaid eligibility and enroll in a DDS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. Any services covered by private insurance or Medicaid State Plan services shall be pursued and, if denied, then the denial must be documented, before DDS BSP funding or services may be offered or initiated. DDS BSP is the funding source of last resort and within the department’s budgeted appropriations.
7. An individual or his or her family applying for DDS BSP funding or services cannot have (1) a pending Department of Children and Families (DCF) petition alleging neglect or abuse; (2) an open Child Protective Services (CPS) case that is the subject of a pending investigation with DCF; (3) an open DCF Family Assessment Response (FAR); or (4) an open case with DCF’s Juvenile Justice Office.