



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

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Commissioner

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Deputy Commissioner

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Waiting List Initiative 2015

Family Fact Sheet- July 2014

What is the DDS Waiting List initiative?

During the 2014 legislative session, Governor Dannel P. Malloy and the Connecticut General Assembly allocated four million dollars to provide residential supports and services for 100 individuals on the DDS Waiting List during fiscal year 2015 (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015).

To be considered for this funding an individual must:

- Have a primary caregiver who is at least 70 years old as of July 1, 2014, and
- Be designated a priority one for services on the DDS Residential Waiting List as of July 1, 2014.

As of July 1, 2014 there were approximately 160 individuals identified by DDS who were designated a priority one on the DDS Waiting List with a primary caregiver who was 70 or older. Waiting List initiative funding for services is not guaranteed to all identified individuals although DDS's goal is to meet the residential needs of as many of these individuals as possible and remove them from the DDS Waiting List by fully meeting their current needs.

How do I get funding for residential supports and services?

If your family has been identified as meeting the criteria of the Waiting List initiative, you will be contacted by your DDS case manager to meet and discuss your current and future residential needs. Individualized supports will be discussed based on family preferences and the individual's level of need (LON).

Once all identified families have met with their case managers, a determination will be made by DDS as to:

1. How many and which individuals can be funded by the Waiting List initiative this year,
2. How much funding each individual will receive based on their level of need (LON), and
3. When the services will start.

What residential supports and services can I get funding for?

DDS wants to hear from identified individuals and their families regarding what type of supports and services would be helpful to them. The conversations with families should start with a vision of where the individual sees himself or herself in three to five years as well as in the immediate future. For example, where would the individual like to live, work, spend the day, and spend his or her free time? What supports does the individual believe he or she needs and who would he or she want to have involved in their life?

Case managers can describe the types of supports available which range anywhere from supports that are provided in the family home to round-the-clock supports outside of the family home. *It is important to remember that if an individual is chosen to receive funding as part of this initiative, the amount of funding is based on the individual's level of need (LON), which guides what types of supports and services can be developed to best support that individual and his or her family.*

When will I find out if my family member will receive funding?

The task of determining who gets Waiting List initiative funding is not a simple one. DDS expects to begin making allocations as early as August 2014. However, allocations will be made throughout the fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015. If a family does not hear in August about an allocation of funding that does not necessarily mean that an individual will not get an allocation this year. Some individuals will receive funding sooner and some will receive it later in the fiscal year as appropriate services and supports are identified and developed for each individual. However, once an individual has been selected to receive the Waiting List funding for any portion of fiscal year 2015, they can expect to have that funding "annualized" in future budget years. This means that if an individual receives funding for less than 12 months under the first year of the Waiting List initiative, that individual can expect to receive 12 months of funding in future years.

Individuals who are not selected to receive funding through the Waiting List initiative should continue to work with their case managers to explore other potential avenues to address specific support needs such as the availability of family support grants.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

In addition to speaking with your case manager or case manager supervisor, you may also contact the Assistant Regional Director for Individual and Family Supports with any questions you might have. These directors are overseeing the Waiting List initiative. Their contact information is:

North Region: Karen Sticklin (860) 263-2633 or karen.sticklin@ct.gov

South Region: Marie Bennett (203) 294-5046 or marie.bennett@ct.gov

West Region: Donna Josephson (203) 805-7417 or donna.josephson@ct.gov

DDS is grateful to the Governor and the legislature for these newly allocated resources which afford the department a unique opportunity to engage in planning with a number of families. We look forward to discussing your family's needs and developing supports that are responsive to those needs.