

Waiver Programs in Minnesota

Waiver programs fund home- and community-based supports and services to help people with disabilities live at home or in the community, rather than in an institution. Minnesota waiver programs are a part of Medical Assistance (MA, or Medicaid in Minnesota). Waivers may help pay for services not covered by other health insurance. You must qualify for disability-based MA to qualify for a waiver; however, not everyone on MA qualifies for a waiver.

Minnesota's 4 Different Waiver Programs for People with Disabilities

- Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) Waiver
- Brain Injury (BI) Waiver
- Community Alternative Care (CAC) Waiver
- Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver

Examples of How Families Impacted by FASD Have Used Waivers:

- FASD training /expenses for parent and caregivers
- Horse therapy
- Social skills classes
- Safes and other safety-related home improvements
- Home cleaning
- Summer overnight camp/day camp (respite)
- FASD conferences or other mental health/parenting conferences
- Parent control software for phones
- FASD consultant/advocate to help at IEP meetings

What Families Impacted by FASD Need to Know

People with an FASD most often qualify for one of two types of waivers:

1. Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) Waiver: For people with disabilities who need the level of care normally provided in a nursing facility.
2. Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver: For people with a developmental disability who need the level of care normally provided in an intermediate care facility.

In order to be considered for a CADI Waiver, you must:

- Be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) based on a disability.
- Be certified disabled by State Medical Review Team (SMRT) or by the Social Security Administration (SSA).
- Receive a MnCHOICES assessment from your county human services agency. Find your county at <http://bit.ly/CountyDirectory>. MnCHOICES looks at a person's current situation to decide which services and programs are a good fit.
- Be under the age of 65.
- Have a need for supports and services greater than what is available through the MA state plan.

Examples of Services a CADI Waiver Can Help Cover:

- Respite care
- Independent living skills (ILS) training
- Transitional services
- 24-hour emergency assistance
- Foster care
- Case management
- Specialized supplies and equipment
- Transportation
- (More information at <http://bit.ly/CADIwaiver>)

Once eligibility is determined for participation in the CADI Waiver, certain questions must be asked about services including:

- Are these services necessary to ensure the recipient's health, welfare and safety?
- Is the service covered by any other funding source (such as MA state plan services, private health care coverage, Medicare, etc.?)
- Have all options been assessed, and does this option meet the individual desires, needs and preferences of the person?
- Is the cost of the service considered reasonable and customary?

In order to be considered for a DD Waiver, you must:

- Be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) based on a disability.
- Have a documented diagnosis of a developmental disability.
- Receive a MnCHOICES assessment through your county human services agency. This assessment looks at a person's current situation to decide which services and programs are a good fit.
- Require daily interventions, daily services and a 24-hour plan of care.
- Need a residential habilitation service that must be included in the person's support plan.
- Need supports and services greater than what is available through the MA state plan.
- Make an informed choice to receive waiver services instead of receiving ICF/DD services.

Examples of Services a DD Waiver Can Help Cover:

- Respite care
- Supported living services
- Transitional services
- 24-hour emergency assistance
- Case management
- Extended personal care assistance
- Caregiver living expenses
- Transportation
- (More information at: <http://bit.ly/DDwaivers>)

How Do I Obtain a Waiver?

Contact your local county human services agency or tribe. Ask to undergo a MnCHOICES assessment, which is designed to evaluate what long-term services and supports the person may need. The assessment determines whether a person is eligible for Personal Care Assistance (PCA) funding, a Consumer Support Grant (CSG), and Family Support Grant (FSG), Case Management for People with Developmental Disabilities, and several other programs relevant to families impacted by FASD.


If you do not qualify for a waiver, you may still qualify for one of these other programs, such as or Personal Care Assistance (PCA) funding. Visit the Minnesota Department of Human Services website (<https://mn.gov/dhs>), or contact Proof Alliance at 651-917-2730 for more information.

How Does a Waiver Work Once I Obtain One?

A person with a waiver can manage their waiver in one of two ways:

1. Traditional Waiver: The person or their caregiver works with a case manager to pay for needed services with waiver funds. The case manager decides how much the waiver will pay and which services it will cover.
2. Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS): The person or their caregiver manages the waiver budget. This option comes with slightly less funding but allows for more control and flexibility regarding the waiver budget. Learn more about CDCS at <http://bit.ly/waiverCDCS>.

Waiver Tips from Families Impacted by FASD

- Keep clear documentation of the disability. This will be needed when the SMRT or SSA is deciding whether you or your child has a qualifying disability.
 - Organize your medical records. Keep an up-to-date summary sheet of all medical appointments. File records in chronological order.
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Waiver Tips from Families Impacted by FASD (continued):

- Join the [Proof Alliance Virtual Family Center on Facebook](#) or a support group for caregivers to discuss waiver issues with others who have had experience with waivers.
- Stay on top of paperwork to avoid accidental loss of a waiver.
- Maintain eligibility for MA or MA for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD); otherwise, the waiver will be lost. Changes like an increase in income or assets can cause someone to lose both MA eligibility and their waiver.