

DDS 101: What you need to know

The background of the slide features a light purple surface scattered with various heart-shaped, faceted gems in shades of clear, pink, red, and purple. A thin, horizontal green dashed line runs across the middle of the image. In the center of this line is a white circle with a green outline. Above the circle is a green curved line, and below it is another green curved line. At the bottom of the slide, there is a solid green horizontal bar.

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SELF-DIRECTION MANAGER
DDS NORTHEAST REGION

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The Department of Developmental Services



- Is the State agency that provides services and supports to:
 - Children with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (up to age 22)
 - Adults with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
 - Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Prader Willi and Smith-Magenis Syndrome
- Serves approximately 44,000 children and adults in Massachusetts
- 4 Regional Offices/23 Area Offices
- <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-developmental-services/locations>



Role of the DDS Area Office



Functions performed at an Area Office include:

- Information and referral
- Service coordination/case management
- Service planning, prioritization and arrangements
- Each Area Office has a Service Coordination team that includes:
 - A group of Adult Service Coordinators
 - Children's Service Coordinator
 - Transition Coordinators
 - Autism Service Coordinators
 - Self-Directed Services Brokers

DDS Support Across the Lifespan



0-3

- Early Intervention provides services and supports to the family, assists with transition to school
- DDS funds Family Support programs to supplement, but primary contact with Early Intervention

**DDS
Children's
Coordinator**

3-18

- School is primary source for services. DDS funds Family Support programs
- Most contact is with school and Family Support Center

18-22

- School still primary contact
- DDS Service Coordinator will begin attending IEP meetings and planning for life after high school
- If your child will graduate with a diploma before age 22, contact your DDS Service Coordinator

**18-22 DDS
Transition
Coordinator**

22 +

- DDS primary source for services and supports
- Family Support services continue for as long as an individual lives with family (can be sibling, etc)

**DDS Adult
Service
Coordinator**

How to Apply to DDS



- Regional Eligibility Teams
- Application may be found at
 - <https://www.mass.gov/dds-eligibility-services>
- May apply for adult eligibility as early as 17.5 years old

Eligibility Criteria - Children



Criteria for Child applications

Developmental Disability (DD)

Children five years of age or older, who have a severe, chronic disability that:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment resulting from Autism Spectrum Disorder, Smith-Magenis Syndrome or Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Manifests before 18 years old age
- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial functional limitations

Child under the age of 5 that:

- Has intellectual disability or a closely related developmental condition (i.e. ASD) or a dx of global/substantial developmental delay

Eligibility Criteria - Adults



Criteria for Adult, 688 applications

- Intellectual Disability
- Require comprehensive history of IQ testing between the ages 5-22
- Applicants applying for adult eligibility must have an adult IQ test (WAIS)
- Criteria is a full scale IQ of approximate 70 or below
- Must have significant limitation with adaptive behavior
- Autism
- Require diagnosis of ASD
- Diagnosed by an MD or psychologist licensed by the board
- Documentation must include specific information from DSM-V (May 2013)
- Adaptive Assessment
- Must have significant limitation with adaptive behavior

Range of services and supports



Once determined eligible there are a wide range of support services (primarily for adults who have left school):

- Family Support Services
- Day Programs
- Employment Programs
- Self Direction Services
- ASD Focused Programs
- In-Home Supports and supports for individuals living independently
- Assistive Technology Assessments and supports

Family Support Centers



The core of our Family Support system is our Family Support Centers, which help to inform, connect and support families.

Services
Available
to
Anyone:

- **Information & Referral** Call or drop-in services available.
- **Family Trainings** on topics such as special education, legal matters, public benefits, etc.
- **Family Networking** opportunities for families to connect, including parents, grandparents, siblings and self-advocates.
- **DDS Eligibility Application:** Support Centers can help families apply for DDS, SSI, Food Stamps, etc.

Services
Available
to DDS
Eligible
Families:

- **Service Navigation** helps families navigate health insurance, special education, elder services, etc.
- **Social/Recreational Activities** both at the Center and in the community.
- **Community Connections & Resources** helping families learn about what exists in their community for recreation, emotional and spiritual support, financial assistance, etc.
- **Flexible Funding** to purchase goods and services.

Children's Autism Support Centers



Services Available to Anyone:

- **Information & Referral** Call your Center with questions!
- **Family Trainings** on important topics such as understanding Autism, behavior management, social skills, and more
- **Family Networking** opportunities for families to connect, including parents, grandparents, siblings and self-advocates.
- **DDS Eligibility Application:** Autism Support Centers can help you apply for DDS.

Services Available to DDS Eligible Families:

- **Social/Recreational Activities** both at the Centers and in the community
- **Community Connections & Resources** helping families learn about what exists in their community for recreation, emotional and spiritual support, financial assistance, etc.

Specialized Programs for Children & Young Adults



**IFFS
(Intensive
Flexible
Family
Supports)**

**Medically
Complex
Program**

**Children's
Autism
Waiver**

**DESE/DDS
Program**



Adult Service Options - Day



Employment Supports

- Competitive Employment*
- Supported Employment*

Day Programs

- Community Based Day Services*
- Day Habilitation Programs* (MassHealth)
- Adult Day Health* (MassHealth)

In Home and Community Services

- Adult Companion*
- Respite*
- Clinical Supports*
- Coaching*

* These may be available to adults with Autism without an intellectual disability

Self-Directed Services can provide people with options

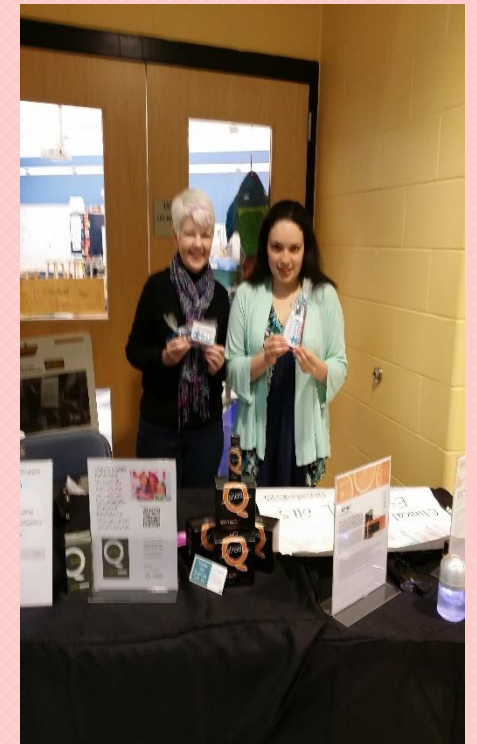
- Opportunity to use DDS funds to develop an individualized plan of activities and hiring the providers that can best meet the needs.
- There are two models of Self-Directed Services:
 - Agency with Choice
 - Participant Directed



Community Developmental Disability Supports



- Under the CDDS eligibility category, the Department supports:
 - Autistic Adults with no intellectual disability
 - Prader-Willi Syndrome
 - Smith Magennis Syndrome
- Eligibility Criteria:
 - Diagnosis by a qualified clinician is required.
 - Substantial functional impairments
- Similar transition process
- Dedicated Autism Service Coordinator
- Collaboration between DDS and other State Agencies as applicable



DDS Contacts



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DDS Statewide Family Support Directory
www.mass.gov/lists/dds-family-support-services-information

For more information:
Mass.gov/dds