

Funding Priorities in Law

[Nebraska Revised State Statute 83-1216](#) addresses priority funding for people who have been determined eligible for developmental disabilities services.

The priorities for receiving funding on Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers are:

- 1) To respond to the needs of **people in immediate crisis** due to caregiver death, homelessness or a threat to the life and safety of the person.
- 2) To respond to the needs of **people who have resided in an institutional setting** for a period of at least 12 consecutive months and are requesting community-based services.
- 3) To respond to the needs of **people who are wards of the Department or persons placed under the supervision of the Office of Probation Administration** by the Nebraska court system who are transitioning upon age 19 with no other alternatives, as determined by the Department, to support residential services necessary to pursue economic self-sufficiency.
- 4) To respond to the needs of **people transitioning from the education system upon becoming 21 years of age** to maintain skills and receive the day services necessary to pursue economic self-sufficiency.
- 5) To respond to the needs of **people who are dependents of a member of the U.S. armed forces** who is a legal resident of this state due to the service member's military assignment in Nebraska.
- 6) To respond to the needs of **all other people by date of application**.

Important Initials to Know

DD
Developmental Disabilities

DHHS-DD
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities

HCBS
Home and Community-Based Services

SC
Service Coordinator

For questions or to request a Service Coordinator:

Call toll free
877-667-6266

Email
DHHS.DDRegistry@nebraska.gov

DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities

Nebraska State Office Building, 3rd floor
301 Centennial Mall South
PO Box 98947
Lincoln, NE 68509-8947

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Developmental Disabilities Services

Funding to Transition from Educational Services to Medicaid HCBS DD Waiver Services

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

"Helping People Live Better Lives"

Rev. Summer 2020

DHHS-DD administers Medicaid HCBS developmental disabilities waiver programs.

What does Nebraska Revised State Statute 83-1216 mean for a graduate?

A 21-year-old graduate is offered funding under the fourth funding priority when transitioning out of the educational system. This priority is to maintain skills and receive day services to pursue economic self-sufficiency. Funding is for day services through the Medicaid HCBS Developmental Disabilities Adult Day waiver.

A 21-year-old graduate may not automatically receive funding when there is someone with a higher priority need.

However, based on historical data, the state has reserved funding for enough waiver slots (200 per year) to continue serving all new graduates under the fourth funding priority.

Service Coordinators

A Service Coordinator provides targeted case management and is available for all eligible persons.

The Service Coordinator can help access other benefits and services. The Service Coordinator can attend individual educational program (IEP) meetings with the school when invited by a guardian.

The Service Coordinator, school system and vocational rehabilitation work together for a smooth transition to adult services.

Funding Offers to Graduates for Day Services

A person submits an application for developmental disabilities services and is determined eligible.



A service coordinator (SC) explains developmental disabilities service options at the last individual educational program (IEP) meeting in the educational program.



60-90 days before an eligible person graduates, SC begins intake process.



DHHS-DD contacts person and offers a waiver slot. This waiver slot provides funding for developmental disabilities day services after graduation.



The person must accept a day waiver slot to become a participant in developmental disabilities services under the fourth priority.



DHHS-DD completes an assessment to determine the funding amount the participant will receive to meet their needs.



Participant chooses which providers to use for developmental disabilities services.



SC completes referral for any agency providers and helps any independent providers with enrollment.



SC holds an intake individual supports plan (ISP) meeting to identify developmental disabilities services and assign responsibility.



SC completes service authorizations assigning funding to providers.

The Wait List

An eligible person must meet requirements to be on the wait list:

- Institutional level of care assessment shows a need level consistent with intermediate care facility for individuals with developmental disabilities (ICF/DD) and
- Receiving Medicaid (or a child who would be eligible if not for parental income).

People on the wait list are waiting for funding under a priority.

The list of eligible persons turning 21 years old is based on the wait list. A person accepting day services may remain on the wait list for residential services through the Medicaid HCBS Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities Waiver.

A person who declines a waiver spot when residential services are offered will be taken off the wait list and will need to reapply if he/she wants developmental disabilities services in the future.

Questions? Email DHHS.DDRegistry@nebraska.gov

Other Benefits and Services

Any person who is eligible for developmental disabilities services must apply for, and accept, any federal Medicaid benefits for which they may be eligible and benefits from other funding sources within DHHS and other agencies, to the maximum extent possible.

This includes the Department of Education. Specifically, it includes vocational rehabilitation services.