

<b>Division of Children and Family Services</b>	
<b>Protection and Safety Procedure Update # 20-2013</b>	
Regarding:	State Ward Application for Developmental Disability Services
Date Effective:	July 11, 2013
Contact:	Sara Gilbert at 402-471-9333 or <a href="mailto:sara.gilbert@nebraska.gov">sara.gilbert@nebraska.gov</a>
Issued by:	Thomas D. Pristow 
Revision:	Changed Kate Mathias's contact information to Kendra Wiebe's.

**Philosophy:**

The Division of Children and Family Services believes when a state ward has been identified as possibly having a developmental disability, a referral for services should be made as soon as possible to the Division of Developmental Disabilities to determine eligibility and to ensure sufficient funding for services.

**Procedure:**

The CFS Specialist will make a referral for services to determine eligibility to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) for any state ward that has an Individual Educational Plan (IEP). It is important to remember that not every child who has an IEP will be eligible for DD services, but it is better to inquire early to ensure proper planning.

The eligibility process can be accessed through a variety of ways:

- AccessNebraska online application at <http://accessnebraska.ne.gov/> (there is an option to identify the applicant as possibly having a developmental disability which results in a referral to DDD);
- Contact the DD central office through the state-wide toll free number (877) 667-6266 or visit: [http://dhhs.ne.gov/developmental\\_disabilities/Pages/DD-Eligibility-2.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/developmental_disabilities/Pages/DD-Eligibility-2.aspx);
- Contact a local DHHS office:  
[http://dhhs.ne.gov/developmental\\_disabilities/Documents/DD\\_Regions\\_Office\\_Listings.pdf](http://dhhs.ne.gov/developmental_disabilities/Documents/DD_Regions_Office_Listings.pdf);
- Visit the Nebraska Department of Education website at:  
<http://ndetransition.site.esu9.org/linksresources/> where access to the DD eligibility process is included along with the transition materials; or
- Discuss eligibility during the transition process with a local ESU transition coordinator.

Prioritization for DD Funding:

- Once eligibility for DD services has been confirmed, then a request for prioritization of DD funding may be requested. It is important to remember that a child must meet priority criteria in order to receive DD funding. DDD will consider all CFS cases for prioritization on a case-by-case basis. Not every case meets priority criteria.
- Children with developmental disabilities are entitled to receive educational services until the end of the school year in which they turn 21. If they graduate from high school prior to the age of 21, the DD Division will not be able to maintain their services on the

Children's DD Waiver (they MUST have a current IEP in place) nor can they transition to the Adult DD Waiver (they cannot be on the Adult Waiver prior to the age of 21). You MUST ensure they maintain their school services even if they age out.

- Prior to turning 19, wards must have SSI established and have Medicaid eligibility determined prior to aging out. In addition, should a guardianship be needed then that must also be in place prior to aging out. The DD Division is unable to determine waiver eligibility without these being in place.
- Parents (biological or adoptive) and/or guardians cannot be paid providers under the DD Waivers; hence, they cannot become Extended Family Home (EFH) providers. Should a foster parent want to become an EFH provider, then they could not also become the guardian or adoptive parent.

Other considerations:

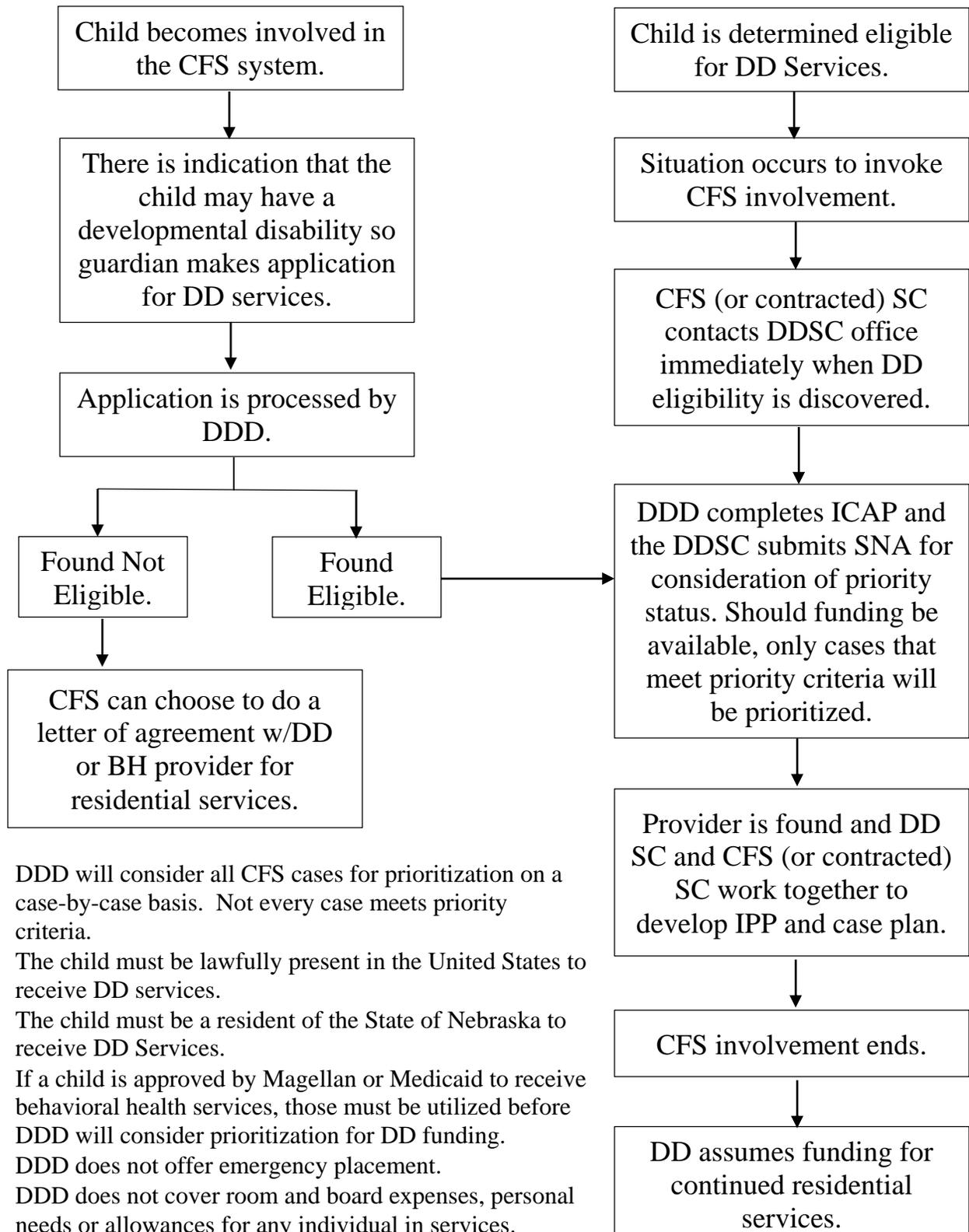
- The child must be lawfully present in the United States to receive DD services.
- The child must be a resident of the State of Nebraska to receive DD services.
- If a child is approved by Magellan or Medicaid to received behavioral health services, those must be utilized before DDD will consider prioritization for DD funding.
- DDD does not offer emergency placement.
- DDD does not cover room and board expenses, personal needs or allowances for any individual in services.

Contacts:

- Questions about the status of an eligibility determination can be directed to Kendra Wiebe at [kendra.wiebe@nebraska.gov](mailto:kendra.wiebe@nebraska.gov) or 402-471-8720.
- Questions about prioritization funding can be directed to Julie Kulasiak (Julie supervises DD Service Coordinators specifically assigned to new CFS cases) at [julie.kulasiak@nebraska.gov](mailto:julie.kulasiak@nebraska.gov) or 402-595-3038.

Please see the following protocol for funding of DD Residential Services for CFS involved children.

**Protocol for Funding of DD Residential Services for CFS involved children who are lawfully present in the United States**



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- The child must be a resident of the State of Nebraska to receive DD Services.
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