

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and Waiver Support Coordination (WSC)

APD works with local communities and private providers to support people who have developmental disabilities and their families in living, learning, and working in their communities. APD also provides assistance in identifying the needs of people with developmental disabilities for supports and services so they can reach their full potential.

APD serves more than 50,000 Floridians with developmental disabilities. To be eligible for services from APD, one must be a Florida resident and have one of the following seven developmental disabilities: autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Phelan Mcdermid syndrome or spina bifida. APD provides Medicaid Home Based Community Support (HCBS) waivers through Individual Budgeting (iBudget Florida).

The iBudget Waiver provides home and community-based supports and services to eligible persons with developmental disabilities living at home or in a home-like setting. It is designed to promote and maintain the health of eligible individuals with developmental disabilities, to provide medically necessary supports and services to delay or prevent institutionalization.

Once living in Florida, one can apply for services through one of a APD regional office. After applying and found eligible to receive services, one is placed on a pre-enrollment status. A waiting list prioritization tool used by the agency to determine who may receive offers for waiver enrollment based on available funding. Those under age 21 may qualify for services under the Medicaid State plan. There are also

different eligibility criteria for the two programs that offer benefits to people with disabilities. APD does not work with Medicaid State Plan nor can it change services on behalf of persons. Waivers can aid in placement in an Intermediate Care Facility (ICF), employment and living services, Consumer Directed Care Plus (CDC+) and Individual and Family Supports (IFS).

A Florida Medicaid Waiver Support Coordinator (WSC) helps individuals with developmental disabilities access services and supports through the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). They guide individuals with developmental disabilities to get the services they need. Their role includes: advocating for individuals and ensuring their needs are met. Identifying and coordinating services such as medical, social, educational, and community resources. Developing support plans tailored to each individual's goals and needs. Monitoring progress through regular check-ins and documentation thus ensuring compliance with Medicaid waiver requirements and regulations.

WSCs are certified by the state of Florida and typically part of a qualified organization that oversees their work. WSCs role involves advocacy, planning and problem solving along with building relationships with families, service providers, and local resources. They are a vital connecting point with all parties while monitoring all aspects of the process and provide families needed assurance of the care of their loved one. More details can be found on the APD website at www.apd.myflorida.com.

Resources:

- **Agency for Persons Disability (APD)**, visit www.apd.myflorida.com/region
- **Florida Housing Search**, call 877-428-8844
- **Medicaid Hotline**, call 866-762-2237
- **Vocational Rehabilitation**, call 800-451-4327
- **Social Security Administration**, call 800-772-1213
- **Disability Act** complaints, call 800-342-8170 or ADA 800-514-0301
- **SSI and SSDI** visit www.ssa.gov/ssi/ and www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability.
- **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**, call 877-254-1055.
- **Medicaid** eligibility, call Florida Dept. of Children and Families at 866-762-2237
- **Medicaid State plan**, call Florida Agency for Health Care Admin. at 888-419-3456
- **Waiver Providers**, www.waiverprovider.com
- **Florida Medicaid Waiver**, www.medicaidwaiver.org/state/florida.html

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