



FactSheet:

Eligibility for Intellectual Disability Services

DHS Office of Intellectual Disability

Who is eligible for registration with the Allegheny County Office of Intellectual Disability (OID)?

Anyone who has had a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability (ID) (formerly Mental Retardation / MR) prior to the age of 22 is eligible to register with OID. **Everyone** who is registered with OID will receive Supports Coordination and **there is no waiting list for Supports Coordination services**. Your Supports Coordinator (SC) will help locate, coordinate, and monitor supports and services with you, including natural and community supports. For information on eligibility requirements for pre-school children please call OID at 412-253-1399.

Please refer to FactSheet: Supports Coordination for additional information.

What is a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability ?

You must have a standardized intelligence test completed **and signed** by a licensed psychologist, certified school psychologist, psychiatrist, or licensed physician who practices psychiatry. The results of the test must state:

- a. An IQ score (70 or below)
- b. An ID diagnosis
- c. Level of ID (mild, moderate, severe, or profound)
- d. Documentation must show that the onset of these conditions of intellectual and adaptive functioning occurred before your 22nd birthday.
- e. Adaptive behavior assessment (typically the ABAS-II, SIB-R or the VABS-II) showing significant limitations in meeting the standards of maturity, learning, personal independence, or social responsibility of the individual's age and cultural group *and* substantial limitation in two or more of the following areas of major life activity:
 - communication
 - self-care
 - home living
 - social/interpersonal skills
 - use of community resources
 - self-direction
 - functional academic skills
 - work
 - leisure
 - health and safety

What if I cannot be assessed by a standardized test?

The professional conducting the test should make sure that the testing is adapted to your cultural background, language, means of communication, and any visual, motor, or language impairments. The requirement for a standardized test can be waived if you are still unable to participate in the testing. In this case, the professional attempting to conduct the testing can submit a written statement showing that the inability to be tested is evidence of an ID diagnosis.

What if I am already older than 22?

If you are age 22 or older and have never been assessed for ID, a professional will need to conduct a standardized intelligence and adaptive functioning test. The professional conducting the testing may use his or her clinical judgment to determine whether the age of onset of ID occurred prior to your 22nd birthday.

What if I need supports and services beyond Supports Coordination?

Your Supports Coordinator (SC) will assist in helping you determine your need for waiver funded services through the Individual Support Plan (ISP) and Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) processes. Receiving an Intellectual Disability Waiver is also based on availability.

Please refer to additional FactSheets for further information on ISPs, PUNS and ID Waivers.

Are there different requirements to be eligible for an Intellectual Disability Waiver?

Once you are notified that Waiver funding has become available to you, there are some more requirements to be eligible for an Waiver, including that you must be eligible for Medical Assistance (MA), must not be receiving any other Waiver, and must maintain financial eligibility.

Please refer to FactSheet: Communicating with PA DHS CAO for further information.

Other main requirements to be eligible for an ID Waiver are that you must:

- *Have a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability.* Waiver eligibility, however, requires substantial limitation in three areas of major life activity, rather than two.
- *Require an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) level of care (LOC).* Requiring this level of care means that if you were not to receive services in your home or the community (Home and Community Based Services) through waiver funding then you would have to receive them in an ICF/ID institutional setting. To certify that you require an ICF/ID level of care, there must be a medical evaluation completed within the last year that states you are recommended for this.

Will I ever have to have my eligibility reviewed?

If you are receiving Waiver funding, your eligibility will be reviewed once a year by a QIDP with OID. In order for this review to be completed you must have a current physical on record with OID. It is *your responsibility* to have the physical done annually and that you provide OID with a copy*. To be sure your physical has all the required information for the review it is recommended that you use the Physicians Medical Form. This form can be obtained from OID, your Supports Coordinator or from your provider of ID service. You will receive a letter stating that this review has been completed, but you will not need to meet with anyone.

Also, to retain waiver services, you must utilize them as stated in your Individual Support Plan (ISP).

*Allegheny County OID, 110 Roessler Road Suite 300D Pittsburgh, PA 15220

For additional information, please refer to the following Office of Developmental Programs Bulletins, which you can access on the PA Department of Human Services website.

- *4210-02-05: Clarifying Eligibility for Mental Retardation Supports and Services*
- *00-08-04: Individual Eligibility for Medicaid Waiver Services*

Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Office of Intellectual Disability
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For more information regarding OID, including additional FactSheets visit <http://alleghenycounty.us/Human-Services/Programs-Services/Disabilities/Intellectual-Disability.aspx>