



# Informing Families

*Today and Tomorrow*

A Partnership for Better Communication  
on Developmental Disability Issues in Washington State

## Applying for Developmental Disability Services in Washington State

### DDA: The Door to DD Services



The main door to services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities in our state is the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). It's where people go to get help for in-home, out-of-home, and community-based services. Learn more about DDA services here: [dshs.wa.gov/dda](https://dshs.wa.gov/dda).

Important: Most services are not an entitlement, which means that being eligible for DDA does not automatically result in enrollment for services. There can be a long wait, but it's important to take the first step, which is applying for a determination of **DDA eligibility**.

### #1 To apply for DDA eligibility, you must:

#### Be a resident of the state.



- If DDA does not consider you a state resident, your application will be denied.
- If you live in another state, your eligibility for services will not transfer.

#### Have a qualifying condition.



DDA's qualifying conditions for developmental delay and intellectual/developmental disability are used to determine eligibility. You can find them here: [dshs.wa.gov/dda](https://dshs.wa.gov/dda) (click on Eligibility).

### #2 How to apply for a determination of DDA eligibility at different ages:

#### Birth to Three

Apply for Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT). A Family Resources Coordinator (FRC) will help you obtain screenings, services and supports. Visit: [dcyf.wa.gov/services](https://dcyf.wa.gov/services).



#### Age Three and Older

Request a determination of eligibility from your local DDA office (or online). Find the office nearest you: [dshs.wa.gov/dda](https://dshs.wa.gov/dda).

You will be asked for documents to verify identity, residency, disability, consent, and (where needed) guardianship or adoption records. Visit [dshs.wa.gov/dda](https://dshs.wa.gov/dda) for an application packet (click on Eligibility).



DDA requires a re-determination of eligibility at age 4, so you will need to re-apply for DDA services *before* that happens. DDA will send a notice 6 months prior to your child turning 4.

### #3 It's up to you to request to be assessed for services.

**You must call to request services after you have been determined eligible for DDA.**

Some services are entitlement, such as personal care through Community First Choice; however, most DDA services are provided through a waiver program, which is not an entitlement. Enrollment in waiver programs are filled based on assessed need when there is available funding. Once you have been enrolled in services, you will be assigned a case manager and service planning will begin. *It's very important to request the services you need, so that you can be contacted when there's an opening for that program or service.*

