

DDA: Waiting List

For people with developmental disabilities and those who support them

What is the DDA?

The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) provides services and supports for children and adults of all ages with developmental disabilities.

You qualify for DDA services if (1) the DDA finds that you have a developmental disability, (2) DDA has funding for you, and (3) you meet financial and technical eligibility requirements. People who begin receiving DDA services usually continue receiving services as long as they remain eligible. **Visit dda.health.maryland.gov for more information.**



What is the DDA waiting list?

DDA cannot serve all people who have been found to be eligible because it has limited funding. Eligible people with developmental disabilities who will need DDA services in less than three years are on the DDA waiting list. If the DDA believes you won't need services for three years, you will be placed on the "Future Needs Registry" instead of the waiting list. People on the waiting list will have a Coordinator of Community Services (CCS). People on the Future Needs Registry will not have a CCS. The DDA places each person on the waiting list in a "priority category."



What is a DDA priority category?

The DDA has rules for who gets services and who will need to wait. Each person is assigned to a group according to their needs, their caregiver's abilities, and the time spent waiting for services. Each group is called a priority category. The rules describe the priority categories. *Please see the fact sheet titled "Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration" for more information.*

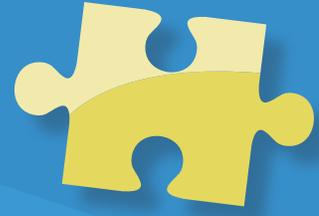
DDA Priority Categories:

- Crisis Resolution, meaning you are homeless, your caregiver is no longer able to support you, or you are at serious risk of harm or harming others
- Transitioning youth aged 21 or 22, or
- Living in an institution.

What is the Future Needs Registry?

When the DDA decides that a person with a developmental disability will not need services for three years, DDA places them on another list called the *Future Needs Registry*.





What if I am on the DDA Waiting List or Future Needs Registry and my circumstances change?

You can ask to be moved to a different priority category if your circumstances change or if you believe DDA made a mistake. If you are on the DDA Waiting List or Future Needs Registry and you need the DDA to make a change — including if you have an urgent need or are in crisis — call your Coordinator of Community Services (if you have one) or DDA (1-844-253-8694).

Why isn't there enough money to help everyone who is waiting?

Most people who begin getting DDA services continue to receive them year after year. The DDA yearly budget has to grow each time a new person gets services. The DDA now spends almost one billion dollars to support about 15,000 people. Every year the budget increases to serve more people including transitioning youth and people in crisis, and to help with rising costs. But the DDA still does not have enough money to support everyone on the waiting list.

How can I help?

In Maryland, the governor decides how much money the DDA gets each year. The Maryland General Assembly approves the governor's budget. Each year, advocates work very hard to inform the governor and state legislators about how important DDA services are. You can help by joining advocacy groups such as:

The Arc Maryland
www.thearcmd.org

People on the Go Maryland
www.peopleonthegomaryland.com

You can also stay informed and learn when and how to help advocate for funding and improved services by receiving communications from:

- Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council (md-council.org)
- Disability Rights Maryland (disabilityrightsmd.org)
- Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities (www.kennedykrieger.org/community/maryland-center-developmental-disabilities)

**If you still have questions about this information or need assistance finding other disability resources, contact the Resource Finder at Kennedy Krieger by phone or email:
800-390-3372 • TTY MD Relay 711 • resourcefinder@kennedykrieger.org**

This information sheet is made possible through a partnership between the Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute, Disability Rights Maryland and Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council.