



LIFE. YOUR WAY.
Department on
Disability Services

DDA Expansion Update Intake and Eligibility

A graphic featuring two overlapping speech bubbles on a blue background. The top bubble is black with the word 'WHAT'S' in white, bold, sans-serif font. The bottom bubble is white with a blue border and contains the word 'NEW?' in blue, bold, sans-serif font.

WHAT'S NEW?

As of October 1, 2022, adults with developmental disabilities are eligible for services from DDA!



What is a developmental disability?

- A severe and chronic disability that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment (other than the **sole** diagnosis of mental illness) or a combination of mental and physical impairments that is:
 - Manifested before the person's 22 birthday
 - Is likely to continue indefinitely



Examples of developmental disabilities?

The CDC lists the following examples of development disabilities include, but are not limited to:

- Down Syndrome
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cerebral Palsy
- Epilepsy
- Prader-Willi Syndrome
- Fragile X Syndrome



Changes the definition of “intellectual disability” or “Persons with Intellectual Disabilities: Changes the age of onset from prior to age 18 to prior to age 22 as set forth in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Association.

DDA Application Journey

STEP 1

Contact DDA

Referrals can be completed by calling 202-730-1700, at the DDS office or emailing dds-dda.intake@dc.gov

A Community Liaison Specialist will contact you to discuss your request and schedule a DDA Front Door Tool questionnaire to be held within five (5) business days based on person's availability.

STEP 2

Front Door Tool

Applicant meets with Community Liaison Specialist to explore applicant's:

- Interests
- Strengths
- Immediate long-term supports needs
- vision for good life
- Interest in employment
- how the applicant is currently being supported
- Make referrals to outside agencies

STEP 3

Submission of Application and Documentation

The Community Liaison Specialist assist applicants with the application process and the collection of required documents needed for the eligibility process, reviews and submits application package to eligibility unit.

STEP 4

Review of application

Eligibility Team reviews Application for Eligibility and Collects any Outstanding Documentation for the Eligibility Process. Eligibility team conducts interviews for assessments and LON. The Community Liaison Specialist will continue to work to obtain outstanding documentation from outside entities.

STEP 5

Eligibility is Determined

Eligibility Team makes an Eligibility Determination Within 45 Calendar Days and Notifies Individual and their Representative of Decision. If Additional Testing is Needed, the team will support the person in obtaining necessary assessment. The decision could take up to 90 Days

Eligibility for DDA services

Once a person is determined eligible for DDA services, they will be partnered with a Service Coordinator who will work with them to create an Individual Service Plan (ISP).

The ISP ensures that the person receives supports that allow them to maintain positive control over their life. It also assists in determining what types of services best meet the needs of the person: Natural Supports, Community Resources, Medicaid/State Plan, or, if applicable, Home and Community Based Services

Roadblocks faced with the Eligibility process

Some delays may occur when there are no records of a developmental diagnosis prior to the age of (22) twenty-two.

We are here to help and have a process in place to request records through the public and private school setting to obtain this information.

Delays may be experienced when the person is not available during business hours for an interview with the EDU staff.

We are flexible and able to work with your schedule. Interviews can be held in person or virtual based on the person's schedule.

Other challenges occur when there is no residency documentation available.

We are able to assist with obtaining copies of utilities, leases or records from social security if SSI benefits are awarded.



Intake Outreach to Prior applicants

- Prior to the expansion date, DDS sent correspondence to individuals who were deemed not eligible over the last three years.
- The correspondence included information on the new eligibility requirements, contact information for the Community Liaison Specialist and how to reapply for services.

Expansion Highlights

- Increased staff in both Intake and Eligibility Units
- Added a new Eligibility Determination Unit (EDU) Supervisor
- Increased the Eligibility Determination Unit staff to include (2) two new EDU Service Coordinators
- Increased the Intake & Outreach Unit staff to include (1) one new Community Outreach Liaison
- Increased the frequency of the Case Review meetings
- Intake and Eligibility Units meeting on a bi-weekly basis to review applications

EDU Applicants October 1, 2022 to Present

- Number of DDA Applicants **81**
- Number of DD Applicants **40**
- Number of IDD applicants **26**
- Number of applicants with diagnosis other than DD including mental disorders **15**
- Number of DD applicants that have reapplied **12**
- Number of applicants who applied after 10/1/2022 who were determined eligible **27**
- Number of pending applicants **54**
- Average number of calendar days to determine eligibility **72** (Includes applicants who required additional assessments)

Intake & Eligibility Expansion Trends

- Increased referrals received directly from families
- Increased referrals from people diagnosed solely with mental health disorders
- Increased referrals from people who have never received any formal supports and their caregiver is aging or has recently passed away
- Increased referrals from people diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Successes

- Increased collaboration between Intake & Eligibility Units
- Although we have access to language services, EDU was able to hire a bilingual staff member who is able to connect directly with the Spanish speaking community using their native language.
- We were also able to expand the psychological services contract to include bi-lingual consultants for the development of psychological assessments.
- Increased number of referrals for DDA services



Department on Disability Services
250 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Phone: (202) 442-8400
TTY: (202) 442-8613
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm (M-F)
Website: <http://dds.dc.gov>

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