DDS 101:
What you need to know about services

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The Department of Developmental Services

- DDS is a State agency that provides services and supports for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, as well as adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Serve approximately 32,000 children and adults in Massachusetts
- Services and supports include day and employment programs, transportation, residential services, and family supports.
How DDS Is Organized

- Area Director
- Assistant Area Director
- Area Nurse
  - Service Coordinator Supervisor
    - Service Coordinator (Kids, Transition, Adult)
  - Area Office Psychologist

Legend:
- Central/West Region Area Offices
- Transition to the Workplace
- Adult Services
- Kids
- Adult Transition
- Vacant

MA Department of Developmental Services
Central/West Region

Map of Massachusetts showing regions and office locations.
DDS: Doors to Eligibility

Child Eligibility, 0-22
Adult Eligibility, Age 22+

Intellectual or Developmental Disability

“Autism Only” without Intellectual Disability,
Smith-Magenis Syndrome
Prader Willi Syndrome
Newly Eligible Adult “Autism Only” and DDS

- Dedicated **ASD Service Coordinator** at each Area Office

- **New services and supports** created for this newly eligible population

- **All services and supports are subject to appropriation**
Support Across the Lifespan

**0-3**
- Early Intervention provides services and supports to the family, assists with transition to school
- DDS funds Family Support programs to supplement, but primary contact with Early Intervention

**3-18**
- School is primary source for services and supports until age 22
- DDS funds Family Support programs to supplement
- Unless high level of need, most contact will be with school and Family Support Center, not DDS Service Coordinator

**18-22**
- School still primary contact, but DDS becomes more involved to assist with planning for adult life.
- Family will have more contact with DDS Service Coordinator, who will begin attending IEP meetings and planning for life after high school
- If your child will graduate with a diploma before age 22, contact your DDS Service Coordinator

**22+**
- DDS primary source for services and supports
- Family Support services continue for as long as an adult's lives with family members (can be sibling, etc)
- Various day and residential options are available according to individual need and state resources
Services for Children and Families

KEY:
- Available to All Families and Individuals Living with Family
- Specialized Programs
Family Support Centers are for anyone living with Family. They all provide:

- Information & Referral
- Family Trainings
- Service Navigation
- Social/Recreational Activities
- Parent Networking
- Community Connections & Resources
- Family inspired programs
Family Support Centers may also provide:

### Planned and Emergency Respite
- Gives family a break from caregiving
- Can take place at family’s home, caregiver’s home or facility. More availability for adults
- Referral generally comes from DDS Service Coordinator or Family Support Center

### In Home & Community Support Services
- Individual services in the home and community, based on family’s need. Can include behavioral supports, adult companion, respite in caregiver’s home, and more.

### Family Leadership Series
- Intensive training for any family member who is caring for a child or adult with a developmental disability.
- Opportunity to invest in your own skills and to connect with other families. “A game changer!”

### Flexible Funding
- To support families in meeting the needs of their family member. Funding can be used for specialized clothing and equipment, recreational opportunities, respite from caregiving, and more.
- If you are in need of such assistance, call your Family Support Center
### Specialized Programs for Children

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **Autism Waiver**               | • For Children 3-9 years old with high level of need  
• Family must qualify financially for MassHealth Standard  
• Open Enrollment periods when family can apply                                                                                                           |
| **IFFS (Intensive Flexible Family Supports)** | • Short-term, intensive in-home supports for the family  
• Referral must come from DDS Service Coordinator                                                                                                   |
| **DESE/DDS**                    | • Partnership with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for children at risk of an out-of-home placement  
• Provides intensive in-home services, until age 22 if needed  
• Specific eligibility criteria; Open Interest periods followed by prioritization by DDS                                                        |
| **Medically Complex**           | • Children and young adults up to age 25 who have complex medical needs  
• Specific eligibility criteria  
• Provides case management, peer support and flexible funding                                                                                   |
Transitioning to Adult Services

- Consider and develop a Vision for life after high school.
  - Interests and passions
  - Vocational and personal goals
  - Meaningful community activities
  - Health and well-being

- Partner closely with your school and DDS Transition Coordinator to plan. The school makes a 688 Referral to DDS around age 18.

- Use Person Centered Planning
DDS Eligibility:

- Child Eligibility is until Age 22 (unless directed to apply sooner)
- DDS recommends applying for Adult Eligibility between the ages of 17-18
- Family Support Center staff can help you with the application
Assessment Process

- Several assessments are done by DDS staff to determine if you qualify and the type of services you need. The Department provides services that you have been assessed to need consistent with DDS Policies.

  - Individual Assessment
  - Family or Caregiver Assessment
  - Professional Judgement
What is Prioritization?

- After assessments are completed, DDS prioritizes based on current needs and available resources. **The prioritization is based on the urgency of need.** Once the assessments are completed you will receive a letter which will tell you about the services you are qualified to receive and give you an idea when you can expect to begin receiving services.

- **Priority 1:** Necessary to protect Health or safety. Should be arranged within 90 days.

- **Priority 2:** Necessary to meet an identified need but there could be a wait for the desired supports as they may be contingent on availability of resources. Families must be willing to accept services when offered.

- **No Priority:** Individual may not qualify or the request is for a service at least two years in the future, and family is not ready to accept at this time.
You May be Asked to Sign a “Waiver”

- The “Home and Community Based Waiver Program” is supported by a combination of state and federal funds. It is called the Waiver program because it is an arrangement that the state has with the Medicaid to put aside or ‘Waive” some rules so that you can have more choices about the services you receive and how they are provided to you.

- Adults Support Waiver
- Community Living Waiver
- Intensive Supports Waiver
Identifying Services and Supports

Consider:

- Immediate and short-term needs and goals
- Recognizing that needs and plans can change at any time
- Be flexible and creative
- Communicate what your family member needs
- Consider what your community has to offer
DDS  ADULT DAY SERVICE  OPTIONS

Employment Supports

Employment Supports provide supervision, training, and/or transportation that enable individuals to get paid jobs.

- Competitive Employment
- Individual Supported Employment
- Group Supported Employment

Community Based Day Programs

Enables a person to participate in a full range of community activities, helping to develop and maintain skills, such as:

- Communication
- Independence in self care
- Building relationships in the community
- Community involvement and career exploration
DDS FUNDED MODELS OF ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- **Shared Living**, reside with a host family
- **Individual Supports** in the home, for assistance with household and community tasks for those living independently
- **Residential Group home** for 24/7 intensive needs
MassHealth/Medicaid Funded Supports

- Day Habilitation Programs
- Adult Day Health
- Adult Family Care
- Personal Care Assistance
“Autism Only” and DDS Services

DDS continues to develop services which address the needs of individuals with ASD. Some examples of Services commonly used are:

- Individual Employment Supports
- Competitive Integrated Employment Supports (CIES)
- Individual Home Supports
- Respite in Recipients Home
- Individual Support and Community Habilitation
- Adult Companion
- Stipends
How will I decide which services and supports?

- Area office Management teams prioritize individuals based on an assessed need and based on available resources. Area Director makes final decisions.

- Once prioritized for a specific service, Service Coordinators talk with the individual and family members to discuss all 3 Service Models.

- They will assist you in developing a vision and identifying your support needs. They will discuss all service models and help you decide which model works best for you by using a Person Centered approach.
Traditional Services

- Traditional Services involve a contract with an agency that provides particular services.

- The agency takes sole responsibility for hiring, training, directing and scheduling the staff. The program’s structure is established by the agency.
Agency With Choice

- Is a **co-employment** model
- Offers an opportunity for people to have more involvement but with the assistance of an agency
- Agency hires staff chosen by the individual and manages regulatory and fiscal matters
- Agency monitors Budget and provides a monthly statement
- **AWC** can support individuals to find particular activities that fit their lifestyle and schedule
- **AWC** can offer social opportunities.
Participant Directed Program

- A Self-Directed model that provides alternatives and greater flexibility. Individuals and families take the lead.

- Work with DDS Support Broker to create a plan/budget while prioritizing the services and supports that are most important.

- The person makes decisions on how to use their DDS funded allocation.

- The person develops a job description and hires and oversees the workers.

- **Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL)** provides Fiscal Management services.
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Thank You!