

The BDDS Waiver Guide (Indiana)

In Indiana, the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) administers Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers designed to help individuals with developmental disabilities (including autism).

The two main BDDS waivers families commonly apply for are:

Family Supports Waiver (FSW)

- Provides supports for individuals of all ages living with family or informal caregivers.

Includes services like case management, respite care, music therapy, behavior consults, community habilitation, transportation, and more.

Community Integration and Habilitation (CIH) Waiver

- Designed to help people live independently in community settings or transition from institutions into the community.
- Offers a broader range of habilitation, therapy, support, and home-based services.

How to Apply for the BDDS Waiver (Step-by-Step)

- Apply through the FSSA Benefits Portal or by contacting your local Division of Family Resources (DFR).
- If your child is under 18 and doesn't otherwise qualify, parental income will not count against qualification for these services.

There are two ways to apply:

Online

- Use the BDDS Gateway: bddsgateway.fssa.in.gov
- Available 24/7 and typically the fastest method.
- You may need to complete the application in one sitting.

Paper Application

- Download and complete the Application for Developmental Disabilities Services (State Form 55068) and related forms (Confirmation of Diagnosis, HIPAA release) from the Indiana FSSA forms page.
- Submit to your local BDDS District Office by mail, fax, or in person.

Local Office Support

- Call 1-800-545-7763 and ask to be connected to your local BDDS office for help applying.

Confirmation of Diagnosis

- A physician (MD or DO) must sign a Confirmation of Diagnosis form in many cases, confirming the developmental disability.
- Submit this with your application or later during the intake process.

Level of Care Screening

- Once the application is received, BDDS will determine whether the applicant meets the required Level of Care (often using the LOC Screening Instrument).
- This involves a short meeting to discuss your child's needs.

Waitlist and Invitation

- You may be placed on a waiver waitlist until a slot becomes available.
- When a slot opens, you'll receive an invitation letter from BDDS and must respond (usually 'YES') within the deadline.
- Once accepted, a case manager will help develop your Plan of Care and connect you with authorized waiver services.

Tips for Applying Successfully

- Apply as early as possible — waivers often have long waits.
- Keep copies and records of your application and communications.
- Update your contact information with BDDS if things change so you don't miss invitations.