



Supporting Active Duty Military Families

The 2014 Florida Legislature authorized individuals who meet the eligibility requirements of 393.065(1), F.S., to receive home and community-based services in this state if the individual's parent or legal guardian is an active duty military service member and, at the time of the service member's transfer to Florida, the individual was receiving home and community-based services in another state. This law became effective on July 1, 2014.

What are the eligibility requirements for APD?

To be eligible for services from the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the individual must be:

- 3 years of age or older, and have a developmental disability before the age 18
- A Florida resident *
- Diagnosed with one of the following seven developmental disabilities listed in Chapter 393, Florida Statutes: autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, spina bifida, Phelan-McDermid syndrome or children age 3-5 who are at a high risk of a developmental disability

* Effective July 1, 2014, individuals whose parents or legal guardian are in active duty military service are eligible to apply to APD and be enrolled in the iBudget waiver if the person was receiving waiver services from the state they were living in prior to Florida.

What services does APD provide?

The agency provides services that help individuals to live, learn and work in their communities. The types of services that APD provides under the waiver are grouped in eight service families. These are Life Skills Development (companion services, supported employment and adult day training), Supplies and Equipment, Personal Supports (personal care assistance), Residential Services, Support Coordination (Case Management), Therapeutic Supports and Wellness (behavior analysis services, physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc.), Transportation, and Dental Services for adults over the age of 21. For more information go to: <http://apd.myflorida.com/ibudget/docs/services.pdf>

APD does not provide medical services. However, once a person meets Medicaid eligibility, the individual may receive medical services from the Florida Medicaid system operated by the Agency for Health Care Administration. For information on these benefits, please link to: Economic Self Sufficiency (ACCESS) at: <http://www.fdhc.state.fl.us/medicaid/services.shtml>

For **Medicaid eligibility**, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) is the agency that makes this determination. To apply for Medicaid, please go to the DCF Automated Community Connection to Economic Self Sufficiency (ACCESS) at: <http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida/>.

How do I apply for APD services?

To obtain a copy of the most current Application for Services, please visit the APD website at: <http://apdcares.org/customers/application/>.

You should submit an application to the APD office that serves your area, either by mail or by hand delivery. Information for the regional offices can be found online at apdcares.org/region. Faxed submissions will not be accepted.

APD's Application for Services has been updated to include a section for active duty military families. Applicants can now indicate if their parent or legal guardian is an active duty service member and whether or not they were receiving home and community-based services in another state.

To expedite the process, an application can be submitted as soon as the parent or legal guardian receives the order to transfer and before moving to Florida. In that case, a copy of the transfer order must be submitted with the application. The application and eligibility process will be completed once the applicant has moved to Florida.

What documentation do I need for the APD application process?

You will need to provide the following information:

1. Proof of identity in the form of: FL Driver's License/ID card, US Passport, Military/Government issued photo ID card, Certificate of Naturalization/Citizenship, school photo ID (only accepted for people under the age of 16)
2. Uniformed Services ID card for the parent or legal guardian of the individual
3. Documentation to show eligibility, including:
 - Documentation of a physician's diagnosis for cerebral palsy, spina bifida, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome; or high risk for children under age 5
 - Documentation of an intellectual disability with an IQ score of 69 or less and deficits in adaptive functioning
 - Documentation of autism is made by a Florida licensed psychiatrist or psychologist, a board certified neurologist qualified by training and experience to make a diagnosis of autism, or a board certified developmental pediatrician
4. Documentation of waiver services received in the previous state and contact information for the case worker who helped the family in the other state.

What happens after an individual applies for APD services?

In order to receive home and community-based services, the person must meet both APD eligibility and Medicaid eligibility requirements.

A review is completed to determine APD eligibility. The applicant will be sent a letter notifying them of the eligibility determination within 45 days for a child and within 60 days for adults. The individual will be notified in writing of their APD eligibility and will then be provided a choice of waiver support coordinators (case manager) from which they will select who they would like to provide this service. That person, chosen by the individual, will then work to get the services in place in Florida.