

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS
OFFICE FOR CITIZENS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OCDD)/
WAIVER SUPPORTS AND SERVICES**

NEW OPPORTUNITIES WAIVER (NOW) FACT SHEET

<p><u>Description</u></p>	<p>Home and Community-Based Services Waiver programs are based on federal criteria, which allow services to be provided in a home or community-based setting for the recipient who would otherwise require institutional care. Due to the demand for these services, there is a Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (RFSR) that lists individuals who meet the Louisiana definition for developmental disability and their request date. This waiver is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>Persons interested in being added to the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry for this waiver should contact their local Human Services District/Authority. The application process does not begin until a waiver opportunity is available. At that time, medical and financial determinations are completed simultaneously to validate that the individual has a developmental disability and meets the financial and medical/psychological requirements for institutional care in an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD). Through freedom of choice, requestors choose their support coordinator and direct service provider(s).</p> <p>The New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) is only appropriate for those individuals whose health and welfare can be assured via an Individual Support Plan and for whom home and community-based waiver services represent a least restrictive treatment alternative. The NOW is intended to provide specific, activity-focused services rather than continuous custodial care.</p> <p>The following are the services provided under the NOW: Individualized and Family Support (IFS) Service-Day-Night; Center-Based Respite; Community Integration and Development; Environmental Accessibilities Adaptations; Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies as an Extended State Plan Service; Supported Living; Substitute Family Care; Day Habilitation and Transportation for Day Habilitation; Supported Employment and Transportation for Supported Employment; Employment Related Training; Professional Services; Personal Emergency Response System; Skilled Nursing Services; and One-Time Transitional Services; Self-Direction Option; Housing Stabilization Transition Services; and Housing Stabilization Services.</p>
<p><u>Level of Care</u></p>	<p>Requestors must meet ICF/DD level of care for medical and/or psychological criteria. Procedures and requirements are the same as ICF/DD facility determination for admission.</p>
<p><u>Population</u></p>	<p>Age 3 years and older and have a developmental disability, which manifested prior to age 22. Must meet the Louisiana definition for developmental disability.</p>
<p><u>Financial</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Income - The monthly income can be no greater than 3 times the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) amount. Income of other family members is not considered unless there is a minor child who does not have SSI. Parental income is counted toward minor children for the month of admission only. The income of the minor and the income of the parent(s) with whom the child lived during that month are counted together. * Resources - The income limit for waiver, also known as Special Income Limit is \$2,199 for an individual and \$4,398 for a couple (when both spouses need long-term care). Individuals with income that exceeds the Special Income Limit may still qualify for coverage of waiver services in Waiver Spend-down. * Waiver Spend-down - An individual may have to pay towards the cost of care in Waiver Spend-down. The individual's liability is based on their income after the income deductions

are applied. Waiver Spend-down has a standard \$20 income deduction. Also \$65 and ½ of the remaining income is deducted from all earned income. After the income deductions are applied, the average monthly waiver rate (Currently \$6942.96 for NOW) and other allowable incurred medical expenses are used to “spend-down” an individuals’ excess income qualifying the individual for Waiver Spend-down. Allowable incurred medical expenses include Medicare and private health insurance premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, or copayment charges, and medical/remedial care expenses incurred by an individual that are not subject to payment by a third party.

- . All individuals are allowed to retain from their income a basic needs allowance which is equal to the SIL (\$2199 for 2015) and the amount of the incurred medical expenses not paid by a third party. Any remainder will be the individual’s liability for the cost of care in Waiver Spend-down.

* The resources limits are subject to change each year.

**For Information About Accessing NOW Services,
Please Contact Your Human Services District/Authority.**