

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

CHILDREN’S CHOICE WAIVER FACT SHEET

<u>Description</u>	<p>The Children’s Choice Waiver began on February 21, 2001 to offer supplemental support to children with developmental disabilities who currently live at home with their families or who will leave an institution to return home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Choice is an option offered to children on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry (RFSR) for the New Opportunity Waiver (NOW), as funding permits. • Families choose to either apply for Children’s Choice, or remain on the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry for the NOW. • Waiver participants are eligible for all medically necessary Medicaid services, including Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostics and Treatment (EPSDT) screenings and extended services, and will also receive up to \$16,410 per year in Children’s Choice services (including required Support Coordination (case management). Services received through the Medicaid State plan will not count against the Children’s Choice Waiver cap. • Service package is designed for maximum flexibility. • Children who “age out” (reach their 19th birthday) will transfer into an appropriate waiver for adults as long as they remain eligible for waiver services. <p>The following services are available through the Children’s Choice Waiver: Support Coordination, Family Support, Center-Based Respite, Family Training, Environmental Accessibility Adaptations, Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies. Therapy Services include Aquatic Therapy, Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Hippotherapy/ Therapeutic Horseback Riding and Sensory Integration Therapy. Additional services include Housing Stabilization Services and Housing Stabilization Transition Services for Permanent Supportive Housing participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A family choosing Children’s Choice may later experience a crisis increasing the need for paid supports to a level, which would be more than the \$16,410 cap on Children’s Choice expenditures. Crisis designation is time limited, depending on the anticipated duration of the causative event. Each request for crisis designation may be approved for a maximum of three months or the annual POC date, not to exceed 12 months. • A family may also experience a temporary “non-crisis” that could increase the need for additional supports beyond the \$16,410 cap and allow the participant’s name to be restored to the Developmental Disabilities Request for Services Registry for the NOW. Current Children’s Choice Waiver services will not be terminated as a result of restoring the name to the registry. Special provisions have been made to allow someone to be restored to the registry until a NOW opportunity becomes available. <p>Note: Planning of services is crucial for Children’s Choice Waiver participants. Over utilization of services does not constitute necessity for crisis support.</p>
<u>Level of Care</u>	Recipients must meet the ICF/DD level of care for medical and/or psychological criteria. Procedures and requirements for admission to the waiver are the same as for ICF/DD determination.
<u>Population</u>	Age - Birth through age 18 years. Disability – Must meet the Louisiana definition for a developmental disability.
<u>Eligibility</u>	Income – Up to three times the SSI amount. Income of other family members is not considered. Needs Allowance – Three (3) times the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) amount.

	Resources – Less than \$2,000.
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	Non-Financial – Meets all Medicaid non-financial requirements (citizenship, residence, Social Security number, etc.)
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	Other – Same resource, disability, parental deeming, etc., as ICF/DD.
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**For information about accessing Children’s Choice Waiver services, please contact your
OCDD Regional Office/District/Authority.**