

# **Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL)**

## **Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD)**

### **PURPOSE OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES**

The purpose of Vermont's developmental disability services system is to work with citizens to develop and maintain quality services reflecting the needs and wishes of people labeled with a developmental disability and their families.

Services support opportunities for people with developmental disability (DD):

- ❖ To live in a safe environment with respect and dignity.
- ❖ To live with her/his family or in her/his own home within the community.
- ❖ To make choices, present and future, which affect her/his life, including choices regarding the design and implementation of services provided.
- ❖ To have meaningful relationships with family members, friends and other community members.
- ❖ To attend neighborhood schools, have her/his own job, and participate in activities based on individual talents, interests and choices.
- ❖ To participate and become involved in any community activity of her/his choosing; such as churches, clubs, organizations, voluntary associations, and work groups.
- ❖ To access the same services available to all citizens to meet everyday needs.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES?**

- Individuals with developmental disability (having intellectual disability – IQ less than 70 or Autism Spectrum Disorder)
- Medicaid eligible
- Meet the criteria for accessing specific services
- For HCBS, priorities are health and safety, public safety, preventing institutionalization in psychiatric or nursing facilities or ICF/DD, employment, parenting support for people with DD

## WHO PROVIDES SERVICES?

### Designated Agencies

Vermont's Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living, Developmental Disabilities Services Division designates one Designated Agency (DA) in each geographic region of the state as responsible for ensuring needed services are available to individuals with developmental disabilities. There are currently ten DA's in Vermont. DA's must provide directly or arrange for other providers or individuals to deliver supports and services. Some of the key responsibilities of a DA are as follows:

- Receive and act upon referrals and applications for services and supports;
- Inform applicants and consumers of their rights;
- Assure that each consumer has a plan for service developed;
- Provide crisis response services for any eligible person in their geographic region; and
- Develop a comprehensive service network and assure the capacity to meet the service needs of eligible people in the region.

### Specialized Service Agencies

In addition to the ten DA's, there are currently five Specialized Service Agencies (SSA). An SSA is an organization that is designed to meet a specific need or has a special approach to service delivery. While they provide similar services to those provided by DA's, they do not have the responsibility for intake and assuring region-wide service capacity. These agencies have contracts directly with DDS.

### Supportive Intermediary Service Organization

There is one Supportive Intermediary Service Organization (Supportive ISO) that supports individuals and families who wish to manage their own services. These individuals and families hire, train and supervise workers who provide the direct services. The Supportive ISO helps them understand and follow state and federal rules related to services.

## VERMONT DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES OPTIONS

Vermont Developmental Disabilities Services agencies offer a comprehensive range of services designed to support individuals and families at varying levels of need. Services encompass a range of support options designed around the specific needs and desires of an individual. Supports, funded as **Home and Community-based Services (HCBS)** include, but are not limited to the following:

**Home Supports:** Supports, provided in a variety of home settings as listed below, which enable a person to live in the community of his/her choosing. Supports in homes include appropriate supervision, assistance with personal care and other activities of daily living, and assistance with and oversight of medical care. People also receive support to learn new skills, develop and maintain relationships with friends and family, participate in recreational activities, attend religious services of their choosing, participate in the life of their community, enhance their ability to communicate, etc.

**Shared Living/Developmental Home:** Shared living with individualized home supports offered within a “family” setting for one or two people with developmental disabilities. These home providers are contracted by provider agencies.

**Supervised Living:** Regularly scheduled or intermittent hourly support provided to an individual who lives in his or her home or that of a family member. Supports are provided on a less than full time (not 24/7) schedule.

**Group Home:** Residential setting for three to six people offering full-time supervision and support.

**Staffed Residence:** Residential setting for one or two people providing intensive, individualized support with full-time staff. Generally, the home is owned or rented by the agency.

**Intermediate Care Facility/MR:** Medicaid-funded residential setting for six people which provides intensive medical and therapeutic services. There is one ICF/MR in the state currently.

**Community/Social Supports:** Social, recreational and skill development supports designed to assist individuals to participate as actively as they choose within their preferred communities.

**Employment Services:** Supports to assist people with developmental disabilities to obtain and maintain employer-paid competitive jobs in their communities. Services include assessment, placement, training and follow-up services.

**Service Coordination:** Service planning and coordination which assists individuals and their families in planning, developing, choosing, gaining access to, coordinating and monitoring the provision of needed services and supports for a specific individual.

**Crisis Supports:** Time-limited, intensive supports provided for individuals and families who are currently experiencing, or may be expected to experience, a psychological, behavioral or emotional crisis. Each county’s designated agency is responsible for ensuring that crisis supports are available in their county. There are also two statewide crisis beds available that are generally used as an alternative to in-patient psychiatric hospitalization.

**Other Supports:** Agencies also provide transportation, medical/psychiatric/nursing support, emotional and behavioral support, communication support, assistive technology or home modification among other supports.

SFY2019 - 3188 people received HCBS

## **OTHER DD SERVICES:**

**Flexible Family Funding (FFF)** provides funds to be used flexibly, at the discretion of the family, to purchase goods, services and supports that benefit the individual and family. 69% of the 1,064 people served were children under the age of 18.

SFY2019: 1064 people received FFF

**Family Managed Respite (FMR)** provides respite for children up to age 22 with a mental health or developmental disability diagnosis who do not receive home and community-based services funding. Respite can be used as needed, either planned or in response to a crisis.

SFY2019: 275 children and youth with a diagnosis of developmental disability received FMR. Additional children with mental health diagnoses only receives this service also.

**The Bridge Program** provides care coordination to families to help them access and/or coordinate medical, educational, social and other services for children up to age 22.

SFY2019: 395 children served.

**Office of Public Guardian (OPG) within DDS** provide public guardians to assist and empower people under guardianship in making decisions and taking actions in critical life areas. Courts assign a public guardian when an individual need a guardian to protect his or her rights or welfare, no friend or family member is available to serve as guardian, and the individual needs a public guardian. OPG facilitates guardianship evaluations for new private and public guardianship applicants. OPG also provides representative payee services and case management services to a limited number of people.

SFY2019

- 736 adults received guardianship services including:
  - 625 people with developmental disabilities.
  - 111 adults over age 60.
- 340 people received representative payee services.
- 4 people received case management services.