



Developmental Disability Determination Fact Sheet

What changed in the Developmental Disability Definition?

The definition now states that a person must have an “impairment of general intellectual functioning” and/or “adaptive behavior similar to that of a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” Prior to the change both impairments were required.

What testing is needed?

Psychological testing can determine a person to have a Full Scale Intellectual quotient equivalent which is two or more standard deviations below the mean. The Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale or the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children may be utilized to determine an impairment of intellectual functioning.

Additionally, psychological testing can be used to determine an overall adaptive behavior composite or equivalent score which is two or more standard deviations below the mean. The Vineland Scale of Adaptive Behavior is one example of a test that determines adaptive behavioral impairments.

Where can I get psychological testing?

Psychological testing can be administered at school, various community organizations, by psychologists, and at some Community Mental Health Centers. It’s important to note this testing must be administered by an approved provider.

Who is responsible for the cost of the testing?

If an individual is enrolled in Medicaid, Medicaid will cover the cost of the testing if it is provided by a qualified Medicaid provider. The Medicaid provider must be enrolled with a qualifying Medicaid provider type to bill Medicaid. Individuals and families cannot be charged for the testing if the person is enrolled in Medicaid.

It is important to note the testing must be considered medically necessary to be covered by Medicaid.

Some private insurances may cover the cost as well. If an individual is in school, check with the school to see if they will conduct the test.

What happens when the testing is complete?

Once the results of the testing are available, the documentation must be submitted to the Community Centered Board who will use the information to make a determination of Developmental Disability.

How long is this process?

All documentation must be provided to the Community Centered Board within 90 calendar days from the day a request for determination was made. If the necessary documentation and information are not provided within 90 days, the Community Centered Board will close the request and provide written notification of this action. An individual, parent, or legal guardian may request an extension of time, up to 90 calendar days to provide the information. The deadline cannot exceed 180 calendar days.

What are my responsibilities?

As the individual, parent, or legal guardian you must submit a written request for a determination of developmental disability. This request must be submitted to the Community Centered Board serving the area in which the person resides. The individual, parent, or legal guardian is then required to submit all documentation (assessment results) for a determination to be made by the Community Centered Board.

What does the Community Centered Board do?

At the time a request is made the Community Centered Board will provide any required forms and a list of the minimum required documents and information necessary to make a determination. Information on where to obtain testing for the intellectual and/or adaptive behavior assessments will also be provided, if requested. The Community Centered Board may request additional information and/or documentation as needed. A written update will be provided to an applicant no less than every 90 calendar days until a determination is made or the request is closed.

Contact Information

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