



What To Do While Waiting for a Waiver

This is a general overview of how to prepare and specific documentation that your family member will need in the event that a waiver slot becomes available. Please contact your supports coordinator for more detailed information.

- Work on your vision for a good life. One resource for this is the Charting the Life Course Tool. More information on this can be found at <https://www.lifecoursetools.com/>
- Work on Building and using your “Social Capital” for yourself and your family. Social Capital involves building relationships and social ties within the community in order to achieve a fulfilled and quality life. Think about what natural supports you can connect with where you can engage in conversation and activity with people you enjoy spending time with.
- Maintain a copy of the Birth Certificate and Social Security Card. If needed request replacements.
- Get a PA Driver or Non-Driver Identification Card from the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Apply for SSA and SSI benefits if over 18
- Establish non-joint Bank Accounts for depositing benefits and income so that there is no confusion about the owner of the resources
- Attend a Workshop on how earnings impact benefits
- Attend a Workshop on Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Accounts
- Explore if and how assistive and SMART technology can help increase safety and independence, examples are iPads, iPhones, iWatches and communication devices or Apps, etc.
- Encourage participation in self-care and self-reliance as appropriate while you can still support, guide and assess skills
- Maximize your IEP if you are still in school. (see Tip Sheet-Transition from Early Intervention and Transition from the Educational System)
- Start exploring what the different services may be available if needed

- Start exploring providers to determine if their philosophies and values align with your vision for services
- Request an Employment Assessment with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)
- Explore all PA DHS Waivers and Funding sources to decide which likely to be available and is best for you. Examples are:
 - Person Family, Community Living and Consolidated Waivers through the Office of Developmental Programs- www.dhs.pa.gov/officeofdevelopmentalprograms
 - Autism Waiver through the Bureau of Autism Services- www.dhs.pa.gov/autismservices;
 - ACAP through the Bureau of Autism Services- www.dhs.pa.gov/adultcommunityautismprogramacap
 - OBRA Waiver through the Office of Long Term Living- www.dhs.pa.gov/obrawaiver
 - Community Health Choices through the Department of Human Services- www.healthchoices.pa.gov/community
- Use supports through your health insurance and prepare to transition for adult needs:
 - Behavioral Health Services and “Wrap Around” to age 21 – Therapeutic Support Staff, Behavior Support, Mobile Therapy, etc.
 - Physical Health-Services and “Wrap Around” to age 21 --, Home Health Aide, Nursing, etc.
- Use the Special Needs Unit of your Physical Health Plan to help understand and coordinate your health benefits.
- Use your Behavioral Health Care Manager at that Managed Care Organization in your County to assist with problems accessing services.
- Access Service Maps on the MH/IDD Website