



Intellectual Disability/Autism Eligibility

The first step towards accessing services from the County Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (MH/IDD) is determining eligibility. The following criteria must be met through written documentation.

To be eligible with a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability:

- Full scale IQ of 70 or below assessed by a licensed psychologist or certified school psychologist using standardized testing. Some examples of these tests are:
 - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) or Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS)
 - Stanford Binet
- Deficits in two or more areas of adaptive functioning, which includes communication, socialization and daily living. This is measured using a Vineland III or ABAS
- Diagnosis of Intellectual Disability prior to age 22
- Signature of licensed psychologist or certified school psychologist making the diagnosis within the report

The psychologist may utilize additional testing mechanisms for the individual at their discretion. For example, if the individual is nonverbal or is unable to complete the standardized testing, sometimes other screenings are used.

Exceptions:

- For an individual with an Intellectual Disability, if a psychologist is unable to obtain an IQ score from a standardized test, documentation of the testing attempt is required. Additionally in this case, an Adaptive Behavior Scale must be completed showing deficits in two or more areas. The psychologist may use clinical judgement to determine a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability.

- If no written documentation is available, or is incomplete, it is the individual or family's responsibility to obtain a new evaluation.

To be eligible with a diagnosis of Autism with no Intellectual Disability:

- IQ is not factored into eligibility
- An evaluation by a licensed psychologist, certified school psychologist, psychiatrist, developmental pediatrician or licensed physician who practices psychiatry, as documented in a standardized diagnostic tool. Some examples of these tools are:
 - Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals (CELF 5)
 - Comprehensive Assessment of Spoken Language (CASL)
 - Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS 2)
 - Childhood Autism Ratings Scale (CARS)
- Deficits in two or more areas of adaptive functioning, which includes communication, socialization and daily living. This is measured using a Vineland III or ABAS
- Diagnosis of Autism prior to age 22
- Signature of clinician making the diagnosis within the report

Exceptions:

- If testing is completed after the individual's 22nd birthday, the psychologist may use clinical judgement to determine whether the onset of Autism occurred prior to age 22.
- If no written documentation is available, or is incomplete, it is the individual or family's responsibility to obtain a new evaluation.