

Social Security –Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- <http://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-child-ussi.htm>
- For a child under 18, **parents' income/resources DO matter.**
- Make an appointment with a local Social Security Administration to get started.
- Make DOCUMENTS READY
 - Pay stub
 - Bank statement
 - Letters from Doctors, schools therapist –this is really important! During the online application, you are required to enter ALL professionals' name/agency/address/phone numbers. If you don't have documents (like letter or IEP/ISP), SSA will contact each agency to get the record, which takes MONTHS.
- Expect to be rejected at first. Very often, “disability lawyers”, “Social security lawyers” can help.

Medicaid

- Child can get Medicaid if the family's income is below 206% of Federal Poverty Level (e.g. for a family of 4, \$24,250 x 2.06 = \$49,955) (FYI: adults can get Medicaid if income is below 130% FPL)
- Go to <https://benefits.ohio.gov/> to see if your child qualifies.
- You will be choosing from one of five **managed care**. **Be careful which one to choose.** They all offer different services and network providers.
- If your child qualifies for SSI, he/she automatically qualifies for Medicaid managed care. Get the income statement from SSI and bring to the appointment at Job & Family Services.
- They can include certain hours of home care or respite, requiring a prescription from physicians. But Managed care is increasingly stingy about this.

Medicaid waivers

Myth: “We have too much income to qualify.” This is not true. ONLY CHILD'S INCOME AND ASSET MATTERS. Some case workers discourage families to apply for waiver by telling the family this myth.

Home care waivers –Administered by County Job and Family Services.

- <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/FOROHIOANS/Programs/OhioHomeCareWaiver.aspx>
 - Individual (59 or younger) must have “**Intermediate**” or “**Skilled**” **Level of Care**

DD Waivers –Administered by County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

- <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/Documents/handbook-developmentaldisabilities.pdf>
- Individuals (any age) must have “**ICF/IID (Intermediate Care Facility / Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities) Level of Care**.”
- Level of care determined by OEDI (Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument, 16 and up), COEDI (Child OEDI, 15 and under).
- Three levels of Waivers
 - **Level 1 waiver** –capped at \$5000. Homemaker/personal care, respite, home modification, special equipment, etc. (for child. For adults, pays for Day habilitation services and transportation, as well)
 - **Individual Options waiver** –cap determined by the individual's skill level. But possible to go above if deemed necessary. ***This is considered a replacement for institutionalization.*** Pays for Homemaker/personal care, respite, etc.
 - **SELF (Self Empowered Life Funding) waiver**
 - <http://dodd.ohio.gov/medicaid/Documents/SELF%20Handbook.pdf>

Support system for Children with developmental disabilities

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- This is a self-directed programming. Individual can choose the services they would like and more flexible about provider requirement and funding.
- CAN BE USED FOR ABA THERAPY.
- Capped at \$40,000 for adults, \$25,000 for children
- **Waiting list** –for all waivers, there is a long waiting list to receive services and unless **crisis** (loss of caregiver, etc.) happens, individuals don't jump ahead of the list.
 - Length of waiting list differs widely by counties –because for waiver services, Federal government pays 60%, and county board pays 40%. For example, Delaware county has no wait, while Athens County usually wait is decade or longer.
 - Each county has own rules of waiting list management. Many use low income as a factor to jump ahead.
- **Family Support Services**
 - There is a pot of money provided by DODD to be used flexibly. In Athens County, this pot of money is shared by those in the waiting list. Is about \$400 per year. Can be used for almost anything if this is disability specific services –supplements, therapies, communication device, etc.
- If one qualifies for waiver of any kind, one will receive “Traditional” “Straight” Medicaid (also called “Medical Card”) until age 18. This kind of Medicaid offers most generous benefit, directly administered by the State Department of Medicaid.

Family and Children First Council

Each county has Family and Children First Council and its Coordinator. This is a group consisted of local agencies serving children with issues (public schools, County Board of DD, Mental health agencies, Children Services, Educational Service Centers, Juvenile court, etc). Each agency chip in money to deliver services

- To qualify, the child needs be served by at least TWO of participating agencies. In Athens County, typically a child who has an IEP from public school and goes to Hopewell (formerly Tri-County Mental Health) to get medication qualifies for FCFC services.
- The type of services is very flexible. Horse therapy, residential treatment, respite, etc. The council and coordinator have a lot of discretion in this process.
- Apply at local county's FCFC to have the process started.

Noriko's two cents:

- DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, and DOCUMENT. Readily available detailed documentations will make every process smoother and faster.
- YOU NEED TO ASK FOR ALL WAIVERS AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES otherwise you won't get signed up. ARM with knowledge.
- NEVER forget that the service providers are HUMAN as well. They don't have ill intentions to us. Their hands are tied by state and local budget. Their intention is to help. Be polite and respectful, even if you don't feel that way.