



RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

**DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

6 Harrington Road – Simpson Hall

Cranston, RI 02920-3080

TEL: (401) 462-3421 – FAX: (401) 462-2775

**Transition to Adult Services for Students with Developmental Disabilities**

**The RI Division of Developmental Disabilities** provides an integrated, community based system of services and supports for adults with developmental disabilities (DD). Our vision is for all individuals with developmental disabilities to live a full and satisfying life in an integrated, community based setting. The Division is also committed to providing supports to assist individuals in accessing integrated community based employment.

**While in school:** The Division is committed to inform students and their families about DD services. For students 14-16 an informational packet will be shared. For students 16-21 years old, when invited to an IEP/CDP meeting, the Division will make every effort to have a DD representative attend.

**When to apply:** The Division has an *eligibility by 17* policy which encourages students to apply for adult DD services as early as 16 yrs, 10 months. Early applications allow for additional planning time and assist in a smoother transition from school to adult services. Applications are on our website at [www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/](http://www.bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities/) If you have any questions about the eligibility process, please call 462-3421 and ask to speak to the covering eligibility caseworker.

**Medicaid:** Services you are eligible for through the Division are funded by Medicaid. Once determined eligible for DD, you will need to fill out a Medicaid application. You need to be found eligible for the Long term supports services waiver in order to receive funding for DD services.

\*Please note - If you receive Medicaid through the Katie Beckett program, your Medicaid will end at age 19. Between the ages of 18 and 19, you should apply for SSI if you haven't already – [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) . After age 18, your family income will not be considered and only the student's income and assets will be regarded. If you don't think you will need SSI, you can apply for Medicaid through RI's Dept of Human Service <http://www.dhs.ri.gov/Programs/LTCApplications.php>

**SIS:** The SIS-A (Support Intensity Scale) is a standardized assessment tool that measures the intensity of supports an adult with a developmental disability requires to be successful in a community setting. This evaluation is completed after you are determined eligible for DD services. The assessment is scheduled by BHDDH and the tool is administered by a certified SIS worker in an approximately 2-hour meeting with the participant and two or more respondents who know the person well. It usually is administered at the school to include both family and teachers. The results of this evaluation will be sent to you in a letter stating what tier level which will identify the level of support for which you are eligible

**Case management:** During your final school year, you will be assigned to a caseworker who will inform you of the options available to you for integrated day, supported employment, and community services. When you are ready to begin services, you will choose either a service provider or self-directed plan writer to develop a service plan. Whenever possible your assigned caseworker will make every attempt to be at your last school IEP/CDP meeting to assist in planning your transition to adult services.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***When and how do I submit an application?***

Applications can be submitted any time you turn 16 yrs 10 months. To apply, please download an application from our website at [www.bhddh.ri.gov](http://www.bhddh.ri.gov) – click on Developmental Disabilities, then click on the Apply for Services button at the bottom of the page. If you do not have internet access or a printer, please call 401-462-3421 and ask for an application to be mailed to you. The application describes the documentation that must be included. Completed applications can be mailed to the address at the top of the application.

### ***How do I know what services I am eligible for?***

Everyone determined eligible has access to integrated day, supported employment, and community supports. These services are available through either a service provider or self-directed supports. The level of support need is determined by the SIS-A assessment. After you are determined eligible, a SIS-A (Supports Intensity Scale) assessment will be administered. The results of this assessment will be a tier level which determines what level of supports are available to you.

### ***Who will help me access services?***

Once you are determined eligible for services, a social caseworker from the Division will be assigned to you. If you are still in school, your social caseworker will attend your last IEP/CDP meeting at school with you. They will assist you with information regarding services, options available to you, information on the process, and answer any question you have.

### ***When and how do I apply for Medicaid?***

If you are not currently receiving Medicaid, you should apply as soon as possible. After you are determined eligible for services through the Division, we will assist you in applying for the Long-Term Support Services through Medicaid often referred to as Waiver services. Since the services you will receive from an agency are funded by Medicaid, this application must be approved by the Department of Human Services (DHS) before services can begin. If you are found not eligible for Medicaid your services will not be funded.

### ***When do I start services?***

Once you choose either a service provider or self-directed model for services a planning meeting will be held that provides you the opportunity to discuss your goals and plans for your future. You will then choose several goals that you would like to work on over the next year. Together with the providing agency or self-directed plan writer, you will develop a service plan based on those goals. This plan is then submitted to the Division 45 days prior to the start of services and is approved or sent back if changes need to be made. Once your service plan is approved by the Division and your Medicaid Waiver application is approved by DHS, you will be able to begin services.

### ***What to expect in the adult system?***

Every year you will have a person-centered planning meeting to discuss goals, services and future planning. You will determine who you would like to invite to your meeting and a Plan Writer will assist you in setting it up. After the initial SIS assessment, one will be conducted every 5 years unless there is a change in circumstances which requires a new SIS to assess level of need.