The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) provides an integrated, community based system of services and supports for adults with developmental disabilities (DD). This system allows individuals with DD to utilize natural supports within their community while safeguarding their health and safety, promoting self sufficiency, human rights and ensuring equitable access to and allocation of available resources to be responsive to the needs of each individual.

Our vision is for all individuals with developmental disabilities to live a full and satisfying life in an integrated, community based setting.

Employment First

Employment First promotes community-based, integrated employment as the first option for services for individuals with disabilities. BHDDH is committed to assisting individuals to access employment services and achieve self-sufficiency through employment enhancement, work force development and job creation.
To be eligible for supports funded through BHDDH’s Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), individuals are required to meet the following definition of developmental disability as stated in RI State Law:

“The term ‘developmental disability’ means either an intellectual disability or a severe, chronic disability of a person which:

- Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments
- Is manifested before the person attains the age of 22
- Is likely to continue indefinitely
- Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of life activities:
  - Self-care
  - Expressive/Receptive Language
  - Mobility
  - Learning
  - Self-direction
  - Capacity for independent living
  - Economic self-sufficiency
- Reflects the person’s need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are life-long or of extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

If you are interested in receiving Developmental Disability (DD) services, the application can be found on the BHDDH website at bhddh.ri.gov/developmentaldisabilities or call (401) 462-3421 and request an application.

The decision to apply to the adult system is an individual one and conversations should begin well before exiting the school system. Students are encouraged to apply 2 months prior to their 17th birthday. A confirmation letter will be sent upon receipt of application. Completed applications will be reviewed by the eligibility committee within 30 days.

The SIS-A (Support Intensity Scale) is a standardized assessment tool designed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) to measure the pattern and intensity of supports that an adult with a developmental disability requires to be successful in a community setting. The tool is administered by a certified SIS worker in a 2-3 hour meeting with the participant and two or more respondents who know the person well. This can include his/her family, teachers, service providers, and anyone else the participant wants to include. The results of this assessment will yield a tier package that will assist in the service planning process.

Once you are found eligible, you will be assigned a DD Social Case Worker. That caseworker will assist you in planning for your future. Discussion will include The Employment First Initiative and the array of options available to you through services with a licensed service provider, self-directed supports, and resources within your community.

The next step is selecting a service provider who can assist you in managing your own self-directed plan or explain agency service options that may help you reach your goals. You will meet with the provider to develop an Individual Service Plan (ISP). An ISP details your long and short-term goals and the steps and resources necessary to reach your goals. This plan is submitted to DDD for approval. ISP’s are reviewed and submitted annually, but can be modified if necessary.

* Please note—In order to begin receiving services, you must also be eligible for funding through Medicaid. The Medicaid eligibility application can be found on the Department of Human Services (DHS) website.