

Rhode Island  
Division of Developmental Disabilities



# YOUR GUIDE TO INDIVIDUAL BUDGETS

Draft June 2023

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## ABOUT THIS GUIDE

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The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) wants to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their vision for a good life. We strive to offer services and supports that:

- Focus on you and your needs.
- Provide you choice and flexibility.
- Help you connect with your community.

To do this, we are working to improve the system of supports by:

- Adding new DD services for you to choose from.
- Using new individual budgets so you have more flexibility and control over the services you choose.

This guide explains what an individual budget is and how it will work. It will also help you get ready for your ISP meeting. As you go along in this guide, there are places for you to write in things about yourself to make this a personal booklet that you can keep or share with others in your circle of support.

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## WHAT IS AN INDIVIDUAL BUDGET?

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The individual budget is a funding range (amount of money) that you will use to plan for the services you need during the year. During your **ISP** meeting, you will make choices about the type and amount of services you need to help you reach your personal goals at home and in the community. Your choices and your priorities will help you develop your individual budget.

Your individual budget is based on several factors:

1. Your SIS Tier (assessed level of need)
2. The circumstances and situations that impact you (from the additional questionnaire)
3. Your current living situation (on your own or with your family or other support)

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## WHAT IS A SIS TIER?

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Your SIS Tier is based on information from your Supports Intensity Scale-A<sup>®</sup> (SIS-A<sup>®</sup>) assessment. Depending on your support needs, the score will determine a level of need (A-E).

Level	Description
A	Low Support Needs
B	Moderate Support Needs
C	Medium to High Support Needs
D	Extraordinary Medical Needs
E	Extraordinary Behavioral Needs

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## **HOW WILL IT WORK?**

You will get a letter indicating your individual budget funding range before your ISP meeting.

Depending on your needs and goals, other services can be added on and are outside your individual budget amount.

## **WILL I HAVE TO CALCULATE MY BUDGET?**

If working with an individual budget sounds hard, don't worry! Your Case Manager will help you. During your ISP meeting, you will talk about your goals and priorities for the next year and the day-to-day support you need to reach them.

You will talk about how many hours you need for each type of service that you choose. Your Case Manager will enter the number of hours for each service into a calculator tool to come up with your detailed budget.

For people in group homes or shared living arrangements, the residential service is not included in the individual budget. It is paid to the provider and includes daily support time.

## **WHEN WILL I GET MY INDIVIDUAL BUDGET?**

The timeline to move everyone to individual budgets will take 1 year. You will be phased-in based on your ISP date.

## WHAT SERVICES CAN I CHOOSE?

The list below shows the services that are included in the flexible budget, those that can be added, and those that are fixed.

Flexible Budget Services	
Center-Based Day Program	Professional Services
Community-Based Supports	Support Brokerage
Transportation	Goods and Services
Assistive Technology	Remote Supports
Respite	

Add-On Services	
Employment Services	Vehicle Modifications
Peer-to-Peer Mentor	Home Modifications
Family-to-Family Support	

Fixed Cost Services
<i>If approved for these services, the Division will pay for them outside of your individual and add-on budget.</i>
Group Home
Shared Living Arrangement (SLA)
Whole Life SLA
Financial Management Services (FI)
Supportive Living
Companion Room & Board

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## **PLANNING IN ACTION**

### ***Meet Judy***

Judy is a 25-years-old and lives in Providence in a licensed residential home. Judy has been attending a DD center-based day program 3 days a week, 6 hours a day. She had a SIS-A® assessment earlier this year and was assigned to Tier E level of support. Judy will begin to use her Individual Budget this year.

During her ISP meeting, Judy's Case Manager will talk to her and others of her choice to learn about her support needs, interests, and goals, and what's working and not working with the services she currently gets.

Even though Judy likes going to a center, she would like to find more things to do outside, especially things that help her stay active and healthy in her community. Her group of high school friends is important to her, and she stays in contact with them mostly through social media. She would like to find a job working somewhere in the performing arts.

She can do many things for herself, but does need support with preparing meals, getting around town, and remembering to take her medication. Judy's Case Manager works with Judy to choose how many hours of each service she needs within her budget.

Judy's individual budget is about \$80,000. Her fixed cost is the group home service. This does not come out of her individual budget.

Based on what was shared during her ISP meeting, here are Judy's goals:

- Learn how to use technology and social media to connect with more people from high school.
- Keep physically active and fit.
- Learn how to take public transportation to get to the day program and back home.
- Find a job of my choice in the performing arts.
- Participate in more activities within her community.
- Remain safe while in the community

This shows how many hours she decided to use each service to help her reach her goals.

Services	Goal	Amount
DD Center-Based Supports	Learn technology and social media	12 hours/week \$15,475.20/yr
Community-Based Supports -group	Physical activity or recreation with a group	8 hours/week \$17,838.08/yr
Community Based Supports 1:1	Learn public transit	4 hours/week \$10,283.52/yr
RIDE program (transportation)	Learn public transit	12 trips/week \$13,228.80/yr
Professional Supports	Remain safe in the community	\$9,000/year
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$65,825.60</b>
Job Development (Add-On)	Find a job in performing arts	\$15,475.20/yr
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$81,609.60</b>

Judy has funding left in her individual budget if she decides she wants or needs additional services during her plan year.

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## PLANNING IN ACTION

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### *It's Your Turn!*

Now that you've seen an example, what about you? Fill in the boxes below with pictures or words to help you think about what you want for your life, and what supports you might need to get there.

**What are your hopes and dreams for the future?**

**What are some great things about you?  
What do you like to do?**

**What are some things that are hard for you?  
What do you not like to do?**

**Who is part of your life?**



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## **CAN I USE MY INDIVIDUAL BUDGET FOR ANYTHING I WANT?**

Your individual budget is only for services. It will help you plan for the support you need.

You will make choices about how much of each service you need. Some services have limits on the amount you can use.

## **WHAT IF I NEED MORE SERVICES?**

If you feel you need more support than you can afford with your individual budget, ask your Case Manager about your options.

## **WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions about your individual budget, ask your Case Manager.

### **For information and updates**

Go to:

<https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities>