



BEAVER COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

What to do while waiting for a waiver?

This is a general overview of how to prepare and specific documentation that your family member will need in the event that a waiver slot becomes available. Please contact your supports coordinator for more detailed information.

- Work on your vision for a good life. One resource for this is the Charting the Life Course Tool. More information on this can be found at <https://www.lifecoursetools.com/>
- Work on building and using your “Social Capital”. Social Capital involves building relationships and social ties within your community in order to achieve a good life. Think about what natural supports you can connect with where you can engage in conversation and activity with people you enjoy spending time with.
- Use supports through your health insurance and prepare to transition for adult needs:
 - Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) to age 21
 - Physical Health-Services and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) to age 21
- Use the Special Needs Unit of your Physical Health Plan to help understand and coordinate your health benefits.
- Maximize your IEP if you are still in school (see *Transition to Adult Life* tip sheet).
- Request an Employment Assessment with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).
- Encourage participation in self-care and self-reliance as appropriate while natural can support, guide and assess skills.
- Maintain a copy of your Birth Certificate and Social Security Card. If needed request replacements.
- Get a PA Driver or Non-Driver Identification Card from the Department of Motor Vehicles.
- Apply for SSA and SSI benefits if over 18 www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/
- Establish non-joint Bank Accounts for depositing benefits and income so that there is no confusion about the owner of the resources.
- Establish a Primary Care Physician
- Attend a Workshop on how earnings impact benefits.
- Attend a Workshop on Special Needs Trusts and ABLE Accounts.
- Explore if and how assistive and SMART technology can help increase safety and independence, examples are iPads, iPhones, smart watches and communication devices, etc.
- Start exploring what the different services are available to meet your needs.
- Start exploring providers to determine if their philosophies and values align with your vision for services.
- Explore all PA DHS Waivers and Funding sources to decide which likely to be available and is best for you. Examples are:
 - Person Family, Community Living and Consolidated Waivers through the Office of Developmental Programs www.dhs.pa.gov/officeofdevelopmentalprograms
 - Autism Waiver through the Bureau of Autism Services www.dhs.pa.gov/autismservices
 - Community Health Choices through the Department of Human Services www.healthchoices.pa.gov/community