



**Medicaid Waiver Services and Coordination are essential for many supports and services that can help your child.**

Medicaid Waiver services are **different from Special Educational Services** which have different criteria for eligibility and different services. Medicaid Waiver Services are funded through the State's **Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)** and can provide coverage and services for things such as medical expenses, respite (caregiver time-outs), environmental modification (making things safe), safety and communication devices, family training, crisis intervention, behavioral supports and Medicaid Service Coordination (someone to help find, plan and coordinate your child's services).

The **WAIVER** part means that family income is waived/not considered as part of the determination of eligibility for services.

**Eligibility** - There is a fair amount of paperwork to file and criteria that the child needs to meet in order to qualify for services. Criteria are based on 1) IQ and 2) Adaptive behavior score and/or severity of disability. An Intake Coordinator at one of the approved agencies can help guide you through the process to determine whether your child qualifies for services (link on back). **You should not try to do this on your own.**

**Intake Coordinator** – to get the ball rolling, ask to speak with an Intake Coordinator for Medicaid Services at one of the approved agencies (link to list is on other side of sheet). It helps if the agency has significant experience working with your child's special needs. The Intake Coordinator works with one of the State's regional **Department of Disabilities Services Offices (DDSOs)** to determine eligibility for Medicaid Waiver Services.

If things do not appear to be moving along, do not be afraid to make a friendly call to your intake coordinator to check in and see where you are in the process. The coordinators sometimes have an overwhelming amount of cases to manage and you are your child's best advocate.

**Medicaid Services Coordinator** – **If** you qualify for services, you will have a Medicaid Services Coordinator. **This person is very important** as he/she is knowledgeable about community resources and will be the one linking you to the supports and services your child needs. Interview the coordinator and ask questions to see if he/she is a good fit and has experience in Autism and/or other relevant disabilities. Some coordinators/agencies may have more experience in some areas than others. The coordinator will walk you through the process and help you obtain the services you need. If your coordinator is not meeting your needs, you have the right to find a new coordinator.

**This can be a confusing process. If you have questions, please contact:**  
**Early Childhood Direction Center** (children birth to 5): Phone: **(716) 880-3875**

**Parent Network of WNY** (ages 5+): Phone: **(716) 332-4170**



# Medicaid Waiver Services continued

**Here are some printed/electronic resources to help you understand the process:**

**Guide to Understanding Supports and Services Administered by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Compiled by Parent to Parent of NYS**  
[http://parenttoparentnys.org/images/uploads/pdfs/Resource\\_Guide\\_to\\_services\\_administered\\_through\\_NYS\\_OPWDD\\_Mar\\_2011.pdf](http://parenttoparentnys.org/images/uploads/pdfs/Resource_Guide_to_services_administered_through_NYS_OPWDD_Mar_2011.pdf)

**Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD):**

**OPWDD and Early Intervention Services Memorandum 7.12.12**  
[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/mscevisories\\_23-12.pdf](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/mscevisories_23-12.pdf)

**Facts about finding Autism Spectrum Disorder Supports and Services**  
[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/autism\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/autism_booklet.pdf)

**Eligibility for OPWDD Services – Important Facts** (shows criteria)  
<http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/node/983>

**Listing of Nonprofit Providers Offering MSC Services - Western NY DDSO**  
(call one and ask to speak with intake coordinator) <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/node/501>

**Autism Platform Booklet -** <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/node/180>

**NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) – Autism Information Page -**  
<http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/autism/index.jsp>

**Acronyms:** [http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd\\_regulations\\_guidance/guidance\\_documents/acronym\\_list](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_regulations_guidance/guidance_documents/acronym_list)

**Putting People First – Family Support Services**  
[http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/brochures\\_familysupport\\_1.pdf](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/sites/default/files/documents/brochures_familysupport_1.pdf)

**Here are some local resources for questions and more information:**

**Early Childhood Direction Center (ECDC) – (for children birth to five)** Provides free information, referral, technical assistance and support to families, professionals, and community agencies concerned with suspected or diagnosed delays or disabilities.  
**Phone: (716) 880-3875** <http://www.wchob.org/ecdc>

**Parent Network of Western NY – (for children five - 21)** Community resource for families of individuals with special needs and for professionals who work with these families.  
**Phone: (716) 332-4170** <http://www.parentnetworkwny.org>

**Parent to Parent of NYS** is a place where families of individuals with special needs and the professionals who serve them can meet and share information.  
**Phone: 1-800-305-8813 (716) 517-3448** <http://parenttoparentnys.org>

**Western New York Developmental Disabilities Services Office - Phone: (716) 517-2000**

*If you know of any resources that we should add to this list, please e-mail: [jmertz@kaleidahealth.org](mailto:jmertz@kaleidahealth.org)*