

Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Agency

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is the state agency that provides support services to Massachusetts residents with intellectual/developmental disabilities. DDS works with many provider agencies throughout the state to offer services to adults and children and their caregivers.

Who they serve

DDS serves children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as their families.

Services for children include

- ❖ Family Support Services including respite care
- ❖ Family leadership and development
- ❖ Family orientation, education and training
- ❖ Family networking and support groups
- ❖ Supports and services for community participation
- ❖ Outreach and education to community members and organizations
- ❖ Partnership program for families of children with significant health care needs
- ❖ Autism support centers



How to access services:

To apply for DDS services for a child or adult an Application for Eligibility form must be completed. Application forms are available at DDS area offices, regional offices and on the DDS website. The completed application should be sent to the Regional Eligibility Team.

Ages 0-4: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dmr/awp/dds-elig-app-under5-eng.pdf>

Ages 5+: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dmr/awp/dds-elig-app-child-adult-eng.pdf>

Documents needed to apply:

- Applicant's birth certificate
- Applicant's Social Security Card
- Applicant's health insurance card (Masshealth, Medicare, private)
- Proof of MA Domicile (e.g., MA Driver's License, MA ID Card, Utility Bill with Name/ Address noted)
- Guardianship decree (if applicable)
- Diagnostic Reports
- ALL Psychological assessments and I.Q. tests (in particular send all I.Q. testing done before age 18.)
- Early Intervention/Developmental Profile
- Educational plans: Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 accommodation plan
- Medical and specialty assessments (neurological, hearing, vision, behavior, genetic, developmental, etc.)
- Adaptive Skills Assessments
- Achievement Tests