

The Bridge Program: Care Coordination for Children with Developmental Disabilities

There are three eligibility criteria that an individual must meet to receive any Developmental Disabilities (DD) services:

1. **Residency:** Be a resident of Vermont.
2. **Financial:** Be found eligible for VT Medicaid.
3. **Clinical:** Be found eligible based on diagnosis of having a developmental disability.

According to the Vermont State Division for Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, **clinical** eligibility for Intellectual/ Developmental Disability Services is based upon the following:

The individual must have a diagnosis of Intellectual Disability prior to age 18, documented by a Full-Scale IQ score of 75 or lower on an acceptable standardized IQ test performed by a licensed psychologist. The diagnosis must later be confirmed in late adolescence or early adulthood through an acceptable standardized IQ test performed by a licensed psychologist.

Additionally, the individual must have substantial deficits in adaptive behavior which occurred before age 18. This is documented by a norm-referenced Adaptive Assessment demonstrating a score at least 2 standard deviations below the mean, with substantial deficits present in at least 2 areas. The Adaptive Assessment must be completed within 3 years of an individual applying for IDDS and must confirm the individual continues to have substantial deficits in adaptive behavior.

OR

A diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder made prior to age 18, diagnosed by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or physician recognized by the Department of Developmental Disability as having training and experience in diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders. The diagnosis must be confirmed in late adolescence or early adulthood by a psychologist, psychiatrist, or physician recognized by the Department of Developmental Disability as having training and experience in diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Additionally, the individual must have substantial deficits in adaptive behavior which occurred before age 18. This is documented by a norm-referenced Adaptive Assessment demonstrating a score at least 2 standard deviations below the mean, with substantial deficits present in at least 2 areas. The Adaptive Assessment must be completed within 3

years of an individual applying for IDDS and must confirm the individual continues to have substantial deficits in adaptive behavior.

Any individual who believes he or she has a developmental disability, or is the family member or guardian of such a person, may apply for developmental disabilities (DD) services. The individual must apply for Medicaid, if they are not already a Medicaid recipient, as he or she needs to be approved for Medicaid prior to receiving any DD services.

Individuals living in Orleans, Essex, and Caledonia Counties who would like more information about applying for services can contact Rebecca Hunt, Intake & Eligibility Coordinator, Northeast Kingdom Human Services at 802-334-7451 ext. 2333 to schedule an appointment.

If the individual is still in school and you believe they qualify for DD services through the Bridge Program, you can call Vickie Florence, Care Coordinator/Team Leader for the Bridge Program, NKHS at 802-748-0215 ext. 1124.