

## FSW Overview

The FSW is a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Developmental Disabilities (DD) waiver which provides support for the child and their family.

The FSW serves people with developmental disabilities who are:

- Ages birth to 21 years old;
- Eligible for DD services per Nebraska statute; and
- Meets level of care with a need level consistent with Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID).

Each FSW participant receives an annual budget of \$10,000.

## FSW Funding Priorities

[Nebraska Revised Statute §68-1532](#) lists priorities for people who are eligible for the FSW.

The priorities for receiving funding are:

- 1) Children with disabilities and family units in crisis situations in which the child tends to self-harm or harm siblings and other family members.
- 2) Children with disabilities who are at risk for placement in juvenile detention centers, or other institutional settings, or out-of-home placements.
- 3) Children with disabilities whose primary caretakers are grandparents because no other family caregivers are available to provide care.
- 4) Families who have more than one child with disabilities living in the family home.
- 5) Based on date of application.

## Initials to Know

**DD**  
Developmental Disabilities

**DDD**  
Nebraska DHHS, Division of Developmental Disabilities.

**DHHS**  
Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

**FSW**  
Family Support Waiver

**HCBS**  
Home and Community-Based Services

**SC**  
Service Coordinator

**SRT**  
State Review Team, a group within DHHS Medicaid who can determine disability.

*For questions or to request  
a Service Coordinator:*

**Call toll free**  
877-667-6266

**Email**  
[DHHS.DDRegistry@nebraska.gov](mailto:DHHS.DDRegistry@nebraska.gov)

**DHHS**  
**Division of Developmental Disabilities**

Nebraska State Office Building  
301 Centennial Mall South  
PO Box 98947  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8947

# Developmental Disabilities Services

# Family Support Waiver (FSW)

## Overview, Eligibility, & Funding Priorities

**NEBRASKA**  
Good Life. Great Mission.

**DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

*"Helping People Live Better Lives"*

## The DD Waitlist

The DD Waitlist is a list of eligible people wanting to receive services on a developmental disabilities (DD) waiver. People on the Waitlist are waiting for DD waiver funding under a priority.

The other two DD waivers are:

- **Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities (CDD) Waiver**—This is the DD waiver with the largest budget and 24-hour residential service availability.
- **Developmental Disabilities Adult Day (DDAD) Waiver**—The DDAD Waiver is available only to people over age 21 years. When someone ages out of the FSW, they typically receive this waiver.

A person on the DD Waitlist must:

- Meet institutional level of care with a need level consistent with Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF-IID) and
- Receive Medicaid or be under age 19 years and not eligible due to parental income.

There is a plan to eliminate the DD Waitlist by October 2024, by meeting the needs of those on it. **Visit our [Eliminate the Waitlist](#) webpage to learn more.**

## Other Benefits and Services

Any person eligible for Medicaid HCBS waiver services must apply for, and accept, any federal Medicaid benefits for which they may be eligible, and benefits from other funding sources within DHHS and other agencies, to the maximum extent possible.

This includes the Department of Education.

## Funding Offers for the FSW

A person must be waiting for DD waiver services to receive a FSW funding offer.



The family must apply for Medicaid for the child. Medicaid may be available to the child without considering parental income.



DDD contacts whomever is legally responsible for the person and offers a FSW slot.



A person must have a disability determination made by either Social Security or Nebraska Medicaid via their State Review Team (SRT).



The person must accept a FSW slot to become a participant and receive their \$10,000 budget.



A local DHHS Service Coordinator (SC) is assigned to the participant.



The SC helps the participant choose which services and providers to use to meet their needs.



The SC completes a referral for any agency provider the participant is interested in working with.



The SC helps any independent providers with enrollment.



The SC holds an intake person-centered meeting to identify FSW services and assign responsibility to chosen providers.



The SC completes service authorizations assigning funding to providers.



Providers can begin providing services once they have acknowledged the service authorization for services they are providing.

## Service Coordinators

A Service Coordinator (SC) provides targeted case management and is available for all eligible people. When a person receives a HCBS waiver, their SC helps plan and oversee their waiver services.

The SC can help the person access other benefits and services. The SC can attend school Individual Educational Program (IEP) meetings when invited by a guardian. The guardian can ask the school to invite the SC.

## FSW Services

A variety of services are available on the FSW:

- Assistive Technology
- Child Day Habilitation
- Community Integration
- Day Support
- Environmental Modification Assessment
- Family Caregiver Training
- Family and Peer Mentoring
- Home Modification
- Homemaker
- Independent Living
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- Respite
- Supported Family Living
- Transportation
- Vehicle Modification

*See the DD Quick Guide for short service descriptions. Longer service summaries are also available.*

Family Support Waiver information can be found in [Nebraska Revised Statute §§68-1530](#) to 68-1534.