

Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Mission: The Department's mission is to create, in partnership with others, innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate fully in their communities and meaningfully engage as valued members. DDS works with adults to connect them with an array of employment and day program supports, community living and other residential aid, and family support. Services are individualized and planned using a person-centered approach.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Age 18 or older
- Must live in Massachusetts
- Meet one of the following 2 criteria
 - o Intellectual disability
 - IQ of approximately 70 or below
 - Significant limitations in one of three domains: Independent Living Skills, Cognitive Communication/Academic Skills, Social Competence/Skills
 - Intellectual disability must originate prior to age 18
 - o Developmental disability
 - Diagnosed developmental disability: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Smith-Magenis Syndrome
 - Functional limitations in three of the following domains:
 - Self-care
 - Receptive and expressive language
 - Learning
 - Mobility
 - Independent Living
 - Self-sufficiency

Eligibility Application Process:

- Completion of the 688 form at IEP 2 years prior to their transition out of education services
- Online application (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/dds-application-for-childrenyouth-between-5-22-english/download>)

Next Steps:

- Applicant will be contacted by Regional Eligibility Team member to schedule an in-person or virtual intake interview
- Applicant will receive a written decision regarding eligibility within approximately 60 days

Eligibility Determinations:

- Eligible
 - o Applicant will be provided the name/location of their area office
- Ineligible
 - o Applicant will be provided information regarding their rights to appeal
- Deferral of eligibility
 - o DDS will request additional documents needed to determine eligibility

Many factors are considered in the eligibility process for adult services. The Ivy Street School provides supports to students and families as they navigate this process but refers to DDS for all eligibility decisions.

DDS Services:

- Case Management
- Community-based Day Supports (CBDS): Structured day programming that focuses on vocational skills, independent living skills, community skills, etc.
- Self-Directed Services: DDS helps an individual to have more control in their life and to make decisions about services based on their vision, path, preferences, beliefs and abilities. Learn more here: <https://www.mass.gov/dds-self-directed-services-0>
- Family Support Services: DDS provides funding for family support programs and services that provide information, assistance, and an array of supportive services to families with children & adults with disabilities who are living at home. Learn more here: <https://www.mass.gov/dds-family-support>
- Residential Supports in the form of housing (limited) or in-home supports
- Essential DDS Transition Information: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/transition-information-fact-sheets-english/download>

Sources: <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dds/>
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/consumer/disability-services/services-by-type/intellectualdisability/support/developmental-services-eligibility-application.html#form>