

## Department of Mental Health (DMH)

*Mission:* The Department of Mental Health, as the State Mental Health Authority, assures and provides access to services and supports to meet the mental health needs of individuals of all ages; enabling them to live, work and participate in their communities.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Age 18 or older
- Must live in Massachusetts
- Applicant must have a diagnosed mental illness for at least one year that:
  1. includes a substantial disorder of thought, mood, perception, which grossly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality or the ability to meet the ordinary demands of life; **and**
  2. is the primary cause of a functional impairment that substantially interferes with or limits the performance of one or more major life activities, and is expected to do so in the succeeding year; **and**
  3. meets diagnostic criteria specified within the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, (DSM 4th ed.) indicates that the individual has a serious, long term mental illness that is not based on symptoms primarily caused by:
    - a. developmental disorders usually first diagnosed in infancy, childhood or adolescence, such as intellectual disability or pervasive developmental disorders; or
    - b. cognitive disorders, including delirium, dementia, or amnesia; or
    - c. mental disorders due to a general medical condition not elsewhere classified; or
    - d. substance-related disorders.

### Eligibility Application Process:

- Completion of the 688 form at IEP 2 years prior to their transition from education services
- In person at local DMH office (<https://www.mass.gov/guides/find-which-dmh-office-covers-your-city-or-town>)
- By mail, online, or fax (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/fillable-dmh-application-for-services-pdf/download>)

### Next Steps:

- Applicant will be contacted by DMH via phone or mail within 7 days to confirm receipt of application, review determination process, assess applicants immediate or evolving needs and request additional documents needed to determine eligibility

**Eligibility Determinations:**

- Approved
  - o Individual is determined to meet clinical eligibility criteria. Level of service needs and means to be determined in a follow-up meeting.
- Denial of eligibility
  - o Applicant will be provided information regarding their rights to appeal.

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 DMH for all eligibility decisions.

**DMH Services:**

- DMH offers clinical services to support the mental health of youth (0-19) and adults (19+).
  - o Adult: DMH Adult Services focus on community-based supports which enable individuals receiving treatment to recover and thrive in their communities. Services include:
    - Case management
    - Adult Community Clinical Services (ACCS)
    - Programs of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT)
    - Respite
    - Clubhouses
    - Recovery Learning Communities (RLCs)
    - Crisis stabilization units
    - Homelessness services
    - Parent and Family Support Services
    - Residential supports
  - o For more information, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/departments-of-mental-health-adult-services-ages-19>

Sources: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-mental-health>  
<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-dmh-adult-services>