

Department of Human Services: Office Overview & Resources

Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) – County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability and Autism Programs

Office Information:

- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/Intellectual-Disabilities-Services.aspx>
- <https://www.myodp.org/>

Eligibility and Contact Information:

- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/Eligibility-Intellectual-Disabilities.aspx>

County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities (MH/ID) Program Office Contact Information:

- <https://www.hcsis.state.pa.us/hcsis-ssd/ServicesSupportDirectory/CountyContacts>

The Charting the LifeCourse Tools and Resources:

- <http://www.lifecoursetools.com/lifecourse-library/lifecourse-framework/>

The mission of ODP is to support individuals with an intellectual disability, developmental disability, or autism to achieve greater independence, choice, and opportunity in their lives. ODP provides a wide array of services to children and adults through base-funding, targeted support management, and Medicaid Home and Community Based-Service Waivers. Some examples of services available through ODP are available at <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Disabilities-Aging/Pages/Available-Disability-Services.aspx>.

The county Intellectual Disability and Autism (ID/A) program is responsible for receiving referrals and having conversations with referred individuals and their families to discuss their needs, goals, and preferences and review available eligibility and diagnostic documentation to determine eligibility for services. The county ID/A program then uses this information to determine how best to assist the individual and their family including:

- Identifying and making referrals to natural and community supports;
- Offering case management services (referred by ODP as targeted support management and supports coordination services) to eligible individuals; and
- Offering base-funded or waiver services to eligible individuals based on the individual's level of need and resources available.

Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) – Infant Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention Program

Office Information:

- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Child-Care-Early-Learning.aspx>
- <https://www.education.pa.gov/Early%20Learning/Pages/default.aspx>

County programs may also make referrals by contacting:

- CONNECT: 1-800-692-7288 or help@connectpa.net

EI consists of services and supports designed to help families with children with developmental delays or disabilities. EI services can include information about how children develop, parent or caregiver education, family supports, and developmental and instructional therapies that assist in child development. EI services and supports build upon the natural learning that occurs in a child's first few years of life. EI services and supports promote collaboration among parents, service providers, and others who are involved with the child.

The Federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires states to have a comprehensive child find system for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to ensure children who are eligible for EI services are identified, located, and evaluated (34 C.F.R. §§ 300.111 and 303.302). As part of the child find system, if a child is suspected of having a delay or risk factor that could result in a delay in the child's development, the child should be referred to the local EI program. Pennsylvania Act 212, the Early Intervention Services System Act of 1990, requires families and their eligible children, from birth until the age established by the school district board of directors for admission to the district's first grade, to receive EI services and programs if the child has a developmental delay or a disability diagnosis.

Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF) Program

Office Information:

- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Children/Pages/Child-Welfare-Services.aspx>

Pennsylvania's children welfare system is administered through local county children and youth social service agencies and supervised through OCYF at the state level. The OCYF serves children and families through county administered adoption and foster care services as well as general protective services and works with county and private children and youth social service agencies on child abuse prevention and juvenile justice matters. The goal of OCYF is to ensure children and youth are free from abuse and/or neglect, provide the most effective services to meet the needs of children, youth and families, ensure timely permanency, and promote the provision of quality services for the educational, physical and emotional well-being of children, youth and families. Screening for developmental delays is a critical component to providing the most appropriate services.

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was signed into law on February 9, 2018. The FFPSA reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-B of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families and children who are at significant risk of entering foster care. The FFPSA require states, as part of their Title IV-B State Plan, to describe the activities the state or tribe has undertaken to reduce the length of time children in foster care and under age five, are without a permanent family, and the activities the state or tribe has undertaken to address the developmental needs of all vulnerable children under five years of age.

Information Relating to Referral

DHS recommends the ASQ and ASQ:SE to assess and monitor infants, toddlers, and young children. For more information, please reference Bulletin 3490-21-01 “Developmental Evaluation and Early Intervention Referral Policy”.

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSAS)-Behavioral Health Services
Office Information and Field Office Contact Information for Behavioral Health HealthChoices: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.dhs.pa.gov/contact/DHS-Offices/Pages/OMHSAS-Contact.aspx
Contact Information for Behavioral HealthChoices: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://www.dhs.pa.gov/contact/DHS-Offices/Pages/MCO-Information.aspx• https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Documents/Managed%20Care%20Information/MA%20MCO%20Directory.pdf (<i>Behavioral Health information starts on page 10</i>)

OMHSAS serves individuals with emotional and behavioral health disorders and helps them live, learn, work, and thrive in their communities. OMHSAS oversees the county Mental Health/Behavioral Health (MH/BH) programs inclusive of the Behavioral Health HealthChoices program that provide mental health and substance abuse treatment services. Under the county MH/BH programs, counties are required to ensure high quality care and timely access to appropriate mental health and drug and alcohol services and facilitate effective coordination with other needed services.

- The behavioral health system for children, youth, and young adults in Pennsylvania is based on the principles and framework of the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP) and System of Care (SOC) approach. Both approaches focus on the equal inclusion of the family and youth in the development of appropriate services for the family and youth.
- For mental health and drug and alcohol services, each county contracts with a MCO, who will outline how to access services and benefits available to you.

Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) – Physical Health Services – Special Needs Unit

Office Information:

- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/Medical-Assistance.aspx>

Contact Information for Physical Health HealthChoices:

- <http://www.healthchoices.pa.gov/info/about/physical/index.htm>

Contact Information for Children’s Health Insurance Program:

- <https://www.dhs.pa.gov/CHIP/CHIP-Resources/Pages/Contact-Us.aspx>

OMAP oversees an array of services and supports designed to promote the health of children through the Physical Health HealthChoices Program, and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

- CHIP is a health insurance program for children and teens who are uninsured and ineligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance.
- The Physical Health HealthChoices Program is the state’s mandatory managed care program for Medical Assistance members. Through Physical Health Managed Care Organizations (PH-MCO), members receive quality medical care and timely access to all appropriate physical health services.
- Each PH-MCO is required to implement a Special Needs Unit (SNU) designed to assist members with receiving needed healthcare services, including complex medical services. The SNU can help a child/family with doctor appointments, finding providers, getting connected to a Medical Assistance Transportation Program in the member’s county, assisting with interpreter services, coordination with other child and adult serving programs, and other services as needed. Each PH-MCO’s SNU can be reached directly via the SNU Hotline or through member services.