



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

DIDD Family Support Program

The Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) Family Support Program (FSP) is a state funded program that is designed to assist individuals with severe or developmental disabilities and their families to stay together in their homes and communities. The program does so by providing different services throughout the entire state of TN for individuals of IDD of any age.

What services or resources does this agency provide?

The services provided by the Family Support Program are based on demonstrated individual and family need. The services can include but are not limited to: respite care, day care services, home modifications, equipment, supplies, personal assistance, transportation, health-related needs, nursing, and counseling.

What areas of Tennessee do they serve?

The FSP provides funding for each county based on population but there is not an office in every county. For example, one office may cover many counties but only have one office.

Is there a cost and, if so, who pays?

There is no cost for families.



For which students might this agency be appropriate?

This program is good for students and adults with severe or developmental disabilities who may need more supports in order to live with their family or on their own. The individual must have a severe or developmental disability and meet the eligibility criteria established for the program. It is important to note the distinction between eligibility and selection and enrollment. Many families who apply to the Family Support Program may be approved as eligible for services based on the definition of family, severe or developmental disability, and living circumstance. However, depending on the resources and council priorities, not all of the families/individuals who are deemed eligible for services will actually be selected to receive services and be enrolled in the program.



Who is eligible to receive their services/ supports and when?

Children and adults with severe or developmental disabilities are eligible to receive services and supports.

What is the referral process?

What documents are needed?

Contact the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Regional or Central Office to find out what agency has the Family Support contract for your county. The required documentation for services is listed below:

- Proof of US citizenship
- Proof of Tennessee residence
- Proof of severe disability that meets the following guidelines:
 - Individual has a mental or physical impairment or a combination of physical and mental impairments. An individual with a developmental or severe disability which is based upon mental illness or serious emotional disturbance without the addition of an intellectual or developmental disability or severe disability diagnosis is not eligible for services or supports through the FSP.
 - The impairment is likely to continue indefinitely.
- Mental impairment results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and individual exhibits need for a combination

Where can I learn more?

Visit the DIDD Family Support Program

website at: <https://www.tn.gov/didd/consumers/family-support-program.html>

of special interdisciplinary or generic services, supports, and assistance that need to be individualized and continued indefinitely

What is the family's responsibility?

The family's responsibility is to reach out to their local FSP to get more information on the services provided in their county. From there, parents can determine if this will be an appropriate and useful resource for them.

What is the student's responsibility?

To the greatest extent possible, the student should play an active role in researching and pursuing services and supports.

What is the responsibility of an educator?

The educator's role is to inform parents who have a child with a severe or developmental disability of the Family Support Program. They can give the family guidance on what the FSP provides, but most importantly, they should give them the contact information for the local FSP office since they will be the most useful in describing available services and accommodations.



How (and when) do you involve them in the transition planning process?

- Educators could invite a representative from DIDD FSP to come to an IEP meeting to better understand the student's current needs, and to see if the FSP could help the student by providing the same or additional services after the child leaves school.
- If there are services that the student does not receive but requires, the teacher could direct the family to seek services from the FSP.
- Educators can provide the family with a packet of information about the different services provided by DIDD's FSP.

What questions should I ask of my DIDD Family Support Program?

- What do I do if I am denied services?
- How much funding does an approved individual/client receive? Is this amount variable on the amount needed or is it a set amount per individual/family?
- Once services are determined, are they permanent or can the services change based on need?
- How long is the current waitlist to receive services?

Additional contact information:

- Give the West TN office a call at: 901-745-7215
- Give the Middle TN office a call at: 615-231-5057
- Give the East TN office a call at: 865-410-0554