



Five Things to Know about Supported Residential

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1. What is the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD Waiver)?

This is a Home and Community Based Waiver that helps people with a diagnosed developmental disability to receive extra supports through Medicaid. The term “waiver” comes from the requirement that an individual qualifies for an institutional setting, such as a state training center, and is waiving the institutional setting in order to receive services in the community.

DD Waivers are allocated by the General Assembly each year as part of the budget process. Individuals are screened for eligibility by their local Community Services Board and placed on a waiver waiting list and given a Priority Level based on their needs. The waitlist is important to apply early.

2. What are the three types of support “packages” under the DD Waiver?

Building Independence Waiver (BI) – for adults 18 and older who are able to live independently. Individuals with this waiver usually own their own home or lease their own apartment, and they receive supports from other, non-waiver sources. They don’t require or need supports all the time. This waiver can be requested by anyone who qualifies on the wait list, no matter what their Priority Level is.

Family And Individual Supports Waiver (FIS) – for children and adults. Individuals with this waiver may live with their family, friends or in their own homes. This waiver package includes medical and/or behavioral supports if needed. Individuals on the Priority 1 DD Waiver Wait List are eligible for this package.

Community Living Waiver (CL) – for children and adults. Individuals with this waiver usually require more supports. This waiver package includes all services under the FIS waiver package plus 24 hour congregate group home and sponsored residential services. Individuals with more complex medical or behavior needs are best supported with this package. Individuals on the Priority 1 DD Waiver Wait List are eligible for this waiver.

3. What are the Residential Options under the DD Waiver?

BI	FI	CL	Residential Options	My Life, My Community
X			Independent Living Supports are provided to adults (18 and older) and offer skill building and support to secure a self-sustaining, independent living situation in the community and/or may provide the support necessary to maintain those skills.	
X	X	X	Shared Living is a support to an individual who resides in his/her own home/apartment in the community with a room-mate of the individual's choosing. The roommate receives a stipend funded by Medicaid for a portion of the total cost of rent, food, and utilities in exchange for providing minimal supports.	
	X	X	In-Home Supports take place in the individual's and/or family's home or community settings. Services are designed to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the individual and expand daily living skills.	
	X	X	Supported Living takes place in an apartment setting operated by a DBHDS licensed provider and provides 'round the clock availability of staff. Direct support services are performed by paid staff who have the ability to respond in timely manner enabling individuals to reside successfully in their home and community.	
		X	Group Home Residential services are provided in a DBHDS licensed home with staff available 24 hours per day to provide skill building and other direct supports as necessary to enable each person to reside successfully in the community.	
		X	Sponsored Residential Services take place in a DBHDS licensed family home where the homeowners are the paid caregivers ("sponsors") who provide support as necessary so that the individual can reside successfully in the home and community.	

4. What does the search process look like?

Your Support Coordinator will help you determine which residential support will best meet your needs. Your Support Coordinator can give you ideas of providers for each service/support. Discuss setting up tours of the various programs and talk to program staff. (Your Support Coordinator cannot and should not make any recommendations; that is your decision to make.)

When touring, ask questions such as:

- What type of training does staff have to work at the program?
- What does the program offer for social/recreational activities?
- How many staff are on duty? If there is an outing planned and an individual chooses not to participate, will he/she be able to stay back?
- Is the home co-ed or gender specific?
- Are supports provided 24/7, if not how often?
- Does the program have access to transportation for outings?

Each supported residential setting, group home, and sponsor residential setting is required to provide a lease and a key. Review the lease carefully. Each home charges rent or room and board separately. The DD Waiver only pays for the skill building supports provided to the individual, not room and board.

5. What are some other options for housing support?

Housing Choice Vouchers (commonly known as Section 8) – Helps individuals afford apartment or rental homes. Individuals can choose their own rental unit, apartment setting and the voucher will help pay the rent. There is usually a long waiting list for these vouchers. Learn more information [here](#).

State Rental Assistance Program (known as SRAP “S-wrap”) – Helps individuals either who are on the waiver wait list or have a DD Waiver and moving into their own, independent home setting. Learn more information [here](#).

Additional Resources Links:

[My Own Home: A Handbook on Independent Housing Options for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities](#)

[DBHDS- The Path to Housing](#)

[My Life My Community](#)

[Virginia Association of Community Services Boards](#)

[The Arc of Virginia](#)