

# NEW OPPORTUNITIES WAIVER (NOW) Fact Sheet

## What is the New Opportunities Waiver?

The New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) program provides services in the home and in the community to individuals 3 years of age or older who are eligible to receive the Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) waiver services.

The NOW is intended to provide specific activity-focused services rather than continuous custodial care.

## Who can qualify?

Individuals who:

- Meet Louisiana Medicaid eligibility **AND**
- Meet the Louisiana definition for developmental disability which manifested prior to age 22 (Revised Statute 28:451.2, Paragraph (11)) **AND**
- Have an OCDD Statement of Approval **AND**
- Meet Intermediate Care Facility-Intellectual Disability (ICF-ID) Level of Care Criteria **AND**
- Are 3 years of age or older **AND**
- Whose needs cannot be met in another OCDD waiver

## If I qualify, what services may I receive?

- Individual and Family Support (IFS) for Day, Night, Shared
- Center-Based Respite
- Community Life Engagement Development
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Specialized Medical Equipment
- Supported Independent Living
- Substitute Family Care
- Day Habilitation/Community Life Engagement and Transportation
- Supported Employment (individual or group) and Transportation
- Skilled Nursing
- Prevocational/Community Career Planning and Transportation
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- One time transitional services
- Housing Stabilization Transition
- Housing Stabilization
- Monitored In Home Care Giving (MIHC)
- Adult Companion Care
- Professional Services
- Expanded Dental Services for Adult Waiver Beneficiaries
- Financial Management Services for Self Direction

\*Individuals who receive the NOW may NOT receive LT-PCS services.

## **How can I request an OCDD waiver?**

Individuals who have a need for services should contact their local governing entity (LGE) to go through the eligibility determination process. Once a person is eligible for OCDD services, they may ask to be placed on the Developmental Disability Request for Services Registry (RFSR).

OCDD provides home and community-based waiver opportunities based on the individual's prioritized need for support, which is identified in their RFSR Screening for Urgency of Need. Individuals with the emergent and urgent need for support will have priority.

For more information on this process, please contact your LGE.

## **Additional resources for the NOW:**

New Opportunities Waiver: <https://www.ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/new-opportunities-waiver>

OCDD Resources: <https://www.ldh.la.gov/resources>

LGE Map: <https://www.ldh.la.gov/page/local-governing-entities>

OCDD State Office: 1-866-783-5553 or email at [OCDD-hcbs@la.gov](mailto:OCDD-hcbs@la.gov)

Individuals who are under 21 may access Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment Personal Care Services (EPSDT-PCS): <https://www.ldh.la.gov/medicaid/epsdt-age-out>

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Services: <https://ldh.la.gov/office-of-aging-and-adult-services/permanent-supportive-housing-psh>

My Place Louisiana: <https://ldh.la.gov/medicaid/my-place-louisiana>

OCDD Employment First Initiative: <https://www.ldh.la.gov/office-for-citizens-with-developmental-disabilities/employment-first-initiative>