

Communicating with the Community

In an effort to better communicate with and provide community resources to individuals, families and supporters, ODS offers:

- › Information about ID and autism services, resources and related events shared through Key Communicator Announcements. Announcements are available through an email distribution list, the AC DHS Facebook page and AC DHS ODS webpage postings.
- › ODS Fact Sheets. Topics include eligibility, registration, services, transition and supports coordination.
- › Outreach to share information with anyone who wants to learn more. ODS is available to provide presentations or host information tables. We will share details regarding supports through the Allegheny County DHS and ODS as well as important community resources.
- › Community of Practice (CoP) to assist families and individuals in identifying and navigating community supports
- › Information on the DHS website includes Key Communicator sign up details, current Fact Sheets, and several links to information and websites regarding the ID / autism service system.

For more information call 412-253-1251 or visit www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/ODS



DHS IS

responsible for providing and administering publicly funded services to Allegheny County residents.

DHS PRINCIPLES

All services will be

- high quality, comprehensive, and accessible.
- individualized and designed to be respectful of the unique cultural characteristics of each individual and/or community
- integrated and offered through a team approach that recognizes the capacity of individuals and families to identify their own strengths, needs, and goals; create relationships with natural supports; and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.



Office of Developmental Supports

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The Allegheny County Department of Human Services does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of a protected class including: race; color; religion; national origin; ancestry or place of birth; sex; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; disability; marital status; familial status; age (40 and older); use of guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness, or physical disability.

*DHS funding information is available at www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx
Produced by the DHS Office of Community Relations 7/2021*



Office of Developmental Supports



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES**

alleghenycounty.us/dhs



The Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Developmental Supports (ODS) assists Allegheny County residents with an intellectual disability (ID) and/or autism.

Eligibility

Those who may be eligible to register with ODS and access Supports Coordination include:

- › Individuals with intellectual disability
- › Individuals with autism
- › Children with developmental delays

Everyone must meet all PA Department of Human Services (PA DHS) Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) established criteria. For complete eligibility criteria and requirements call 412-253-1250.

How to Get Started

Start with a call to us at 412-253-1250. You will be guided through the registration process by our Assessment and Resource Team. After ODS verifies eligibility we will meet with you and complete required documents.

Guided by the principles and values of Everyday Lives and Community of Practice (CoP), ODS staff can share helpful community resources with you. CoP focuses on supporting families and individuals across the lifespan by integrating an array of supports to achieve a good life – an Everyday Life.

Learn more at www.myodp.org

Supports Coordination

Your Supports Coordinator (SC) will learn what life experiences are important to you. With you, your family and the people that support you they'll assist with creating a person centered Individual Support Plan (ISP). This may include ideas for you to

- › Engage in a more meaningful life
- › Be well supported in your home
- › Fully access and participate in your community
- › Remain healthy and safe
- › Find and keep a job you like
- › Enjoy desired activities
- › Learn new things
- › Successfully transition to adulthood
- › Provide a break for a caregiver

An ISP includes current and needed, natural (unpaid/friends and family), paid and community supports and services.

Individual Support Plans, supports and services will reflect and be guided by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) principles of Everyday Lives - Values in Action. These values include safety, quality, success and communication.

Learn more at www.MyODP.org and the PA ODP website www.dhs.pa.gov



The Time to Plan is Now

You can register and start working with an SC, even if services are not currently needed. An SC can help you navigate systems and connect you to resources in the community.

It is especially important for eligible youth, ages 14 to 21 years, to register. Supports coordinators can be vital members of transition teams during this time of preparation for life after high school. Developing a strong ISP and documenting student's needs in a timely way allows ODS to plan for these transition-age youth most effectively.

More generally, it's critical for all registered individuals to engage in planning for future needs with their SC. Individuals identified with an emergency need for funded services can request a Consolidated, Person-Family Directed Support (PFD) or Community Living waiver. This is done through documentation completed with their SC. These waivers can provide funding for home and community-based services to support such things as

- › Employment / meaningful day activities
- › Community participation
- › Health and safety
- › Building and maintaining relationships
- › Effective communication

Everyone registered with ODS receives SC services. Individuals receive waiver funding based on need and availability.