The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is the health and human service agency which provides a variety of supports to children & adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Supports are designed to promote meaningful participation and inclusion in all aspects of community life. There are different eligibility criteria and services for children and adults.

- Services for children include family support and a variety of programs to address specialized support needs that supplement educational services.
- Services for adults include: an array of employment and day program supports which enable individuals to pursue a career or be engaged in other meaningful activities in the community; community living supports for people in more independent living situations, and other residential supports, such as shared living and group homes; and family supports and a variety of flexible services such as respite, in-home skills training, and companion services for those individuals who live at home with their families.

Services are individualized and planned using a person centered approach, and are coordinated through our 23 Area and 4 Regional Offices. Services are provided through contracts with not for profit agencies or through two self-directed service options, and are monitored through a variety of quality management systems.

DDS serves over 9,000 children and 32,000 adults.

DDS serves individuals with an Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Prader-Willi & Smith-Magenis Syndrome.

DDS has helpful information on the eligibility process and requirements for both children and adults on our web-site.

Family & Autism Support Centers across the state offer a wide range of information and activities for families, children, and adults eligible for DDS.

DDS works with schools, students & families towards a meaningful transition from school to adult life with DDS supports.

The DDS Office of Quality Management provides information on the health, safety, and quality of life of those supported by DDS and its providers.

More information regarding DDS eligibility, services and offices can be found at:

www.mass.gov/dds
DDS Central Office
500 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
617-727-5608

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