

Priority Categories

Services for people with developmental disabilities are available either through the Home and Community Based Waiver which DDA implements for the Medicaid (Medical Assistance) Program or through a DDA administered program funded with state-only dollars. The DDA serves people based on their priority category which should reflect the person's needs as follows. Placement in a priority group does not guarantee services will be available. If funding through the waiver or the state-only program is not available a person is placed on a waiting list.

- First serviced are people in Crisis Resolution
- Second are people in Crisis Prevention
- Third are people in Current Request

Code of Maryland Regulations 10.22.12.07B (1)-(3)

B. Description of Categories.

(1) Category I-----Crisis Resolution.

(a) To qualify for this category, the applicant shall meet one or more of the following criteria. The applicant shall be:

(i) Homeless or living in temporary housing with clear time-limited ability to continue to live in this setting with no viable non-DDA-funded alternative;

(ii) At serious risk of physical harm in the current environment;

(iii) At serious risk of causing physical harm to others in the current environment;

(iv) In danger of losing DDA-funded residential services because of a lack of current day services;

(v) One who has lost DDA-funded day services; or

(vi) Living with a caregiver who is unable to provide adequate care due to the caregiver's impaired health, which may place the applicant at risk of serious physical harm.

(b) To qualify for Category I under §B(1)(a)(ii), evidence such as the following shall be necessary. The applicant:

(i) Has recently received severe injuries due to the behavior of others in the home or community;

(ii) Has recently been the victim of sexual abuse;

(iii) Has been neglected to the extent that the individual is at serious risk of sustaining injuries which are life threatening or which substantially impair functioning;

(iv) Engages in self-injurious behavior which puts the individual at serious risk of sustaining injuries which are life threatening or which substantially impair functioning; or

(v) Is at serious risk of sustaining injuries which are life threatening or which substantially impair functioning due to the physical surroundings.

(c) If the applicant qualifies for Category I under §B(1)(a)(v), the individual shall qualify for day services only.

(d) If the applicant is living in a situation where the applicant is the caregiver, §B(1)(a)(vi) shall apply to the applicant.

(e) Individuals who qualify for services under this category shall, at a minimum, remain in this category until they have been provided with those services required to resolve the situation.

(f) Individuals become eligible to receive services as the need occurs.

(2) Category II-----Crisis Prevention.

(a) To qualify for this priority category, the applicant:

(i) Shall have been determined by the DDA to have an urgent need for services;

(ii) May not qualify for services based on the criteria for Category I; and

(iii) Shall be at substantial risk for meeting one or more of the criteria in §B(1)(a) within 1 year, or have a caregiver who is 65 years old or more.

(b) Individuals who qualify for services under this category shall, at a minimum, remain in this category until they have been provided with those services required to resolve the situation.

(c) Individuals become eligible to receive services from the date of approval of priority status, except when eligibility is determined by the age of the caregiver. In this case, priority is determined by the caregiver's date of birth so that individuals with caregivers born at an earlier date have priority over individuals with caregivers born at a later date.

(3) Category III-----Current Request.

(a) To qualify for this priority category, the applicant shall indicate at least a current need for services.

(b) Prioritization of Services.

(i) Applicants shall be prioritized for services based on the number of fiscal years they have been on the waiting list, except as provided for in §B(3)(b)(iv) of this regulation.

(ii) Applicants on the waiting list for the longest period of time shall receive services before those who have been on the list for fewer years, except as provided for in §B(3)(b)(iv) of this regulation.

(iii) Applicants whose applications are received by the DDA access unit within a given fiscal year shall be ranked by the fiscal year of application, and the month and day of birth. Those applicants born at the beginning of the fiscal year have priority over those born later in the year.

(iv) For day programs only, the period of time that shall be counted toward prioritizing an individual shall begin with the year of departure from school or the year of application, whichever is later.