



Services

GUIDE



2879 Johnstown Rd.
Columbus, OH 43219



614-475-6440



www.fcbdd.org



About Us

Franklin County DD is a government agency that supports children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Our mission is to help people, and their families, achieve their vision of a good life by supporting opportunities to live, learn, work, play and engage in a community that is accessible and inclusive.

We provide assistance across the lifespan - from infancy to the senior years - in a variety of settings: at home, in schools and early childhood centers, on the job and out in the community.

For the very young, our support often begins with early-intervention services. As children grow and transition to adulthood, Franklin County DD is there to help with connections to employment, housing, recreation and more.

We also work to keep people with disabilities safe and are available 24/7 for reports of suspected abuse, neglect or other incidents.

Franklin County DD employs hundreds of professionals and contracts with many service providers and advocacy organizations.

Established by law in 1967, our agency is governed by a seven-member volunteer board and receives funding from federal, state and local sources, including property taxes.



Helping people, and their families, achieve their vision of a good life by supporting opportunities to live, learn, work, play and engage in a community that is accessible and inclusive.



Eligibility for DD Services

To qualify for our services, a person must live in Franklin County and have a disability that is considered developmental—it must be present before the person reaches age 22.

The disability also must include physical or intellectual impairments that are likely to be lifelong, and not caused solely by mental illness. Developmental disabilities can result from various conditions, such as cerebral palsy, head injury, epilepsy, Down syndrome or autism.

Children from birth to age 3 with at least one developmental delay are eligible for early intervention. These services are coordinated through Help Me Grow; Franklin County DD performs evaluations and delivers services, which are effective ways to create lasting improvements in a child's development.

- After age 3, eligibility depends on whether the child or adult meets criteria for functional limitations in major life areas such as language, learning, mobility and self-care. Having a functional limitation means not being able to perform a task or action in ways typical for people of the same age.
- To determine how a person's disability affects functional abilities, trained staff administer an evaluation called the Children's Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument (COEDI) or the Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument (OEDI).
- Eligibility determinations take place at ages 3, 6 and 16, or when there is a significant change in functioning.

Learn more about eligibility at <https://fcbdd.org/enrollment/eligibility> or call Intake at 614-342-5490.



Applying for DD Services

Applications can be completed by the person who has a known or suspected developmental disability, or by a parent/guardian. Procedures for enrolling in programs vary, depending on the age of the applicant and other circumstances.

- Birth to age 3: Help Me Grow of Franklin County is the first contact when seeking services for very young children with a developmental disability, delay or established risk. Families should call 1-800-755-GROW or complete an online referral to get started: <https://ochids.odh.ohio.gov/public/refer>
- Age 3 and older: The first step is to contact the Franklin County DD Intake Department at 614-342-5490 or complete an online application: <https://fcbdd.org/prescreen-intake-form/>.

Specialists with Help Me Grow and Franklin County DD can administer assessments, if needed, to identify a disability or delay (see Eligibility for Services, page 3).

Franklin County DD also might request health or school records to determine if the person had a disability before the age of 22.

After the application process is complete, Franklin County DD sends a letter informing the person or family member about the eligibility determination. Decisions can be appealed.

For questions, call Intake at 614-342-5490 or visit <https://fcbdd.org/enrollment/applying-for-services>.

Early Childhood Services

Franklin County DD provides direct services and partners with community organizations to deliver high-quality early intervention and preschool programs to thousands of young children with developmental disabilities, delays or qualifying medical conditions. Services are tailored to the needs of each family so that children have the best opportunities to learn and grow.

Very young children—birth to age 3—and their families are served through Ohio’s Early Intervention (EI) program, a statewide system with coordinated local supports. Professionals from Franklin County DD and our partner agencies provide support in children’s homes and in community spaces where families live, play and spend their day.

In addition to regular home visits, families also have access to specialists as needed, including occupational and physical therapists, speech and language pathologists, audiologists, vision specialists and mental health/behavior support.

When children turn 3, they transition out of EI and home-based services but can continue to receive support if eligible. Children ages 3-5 who qualify for special education services have the option to attend a center-based program at Franklin County DD or with one of our community partners.

The Franklin County DD Early Childhood Education program works in collaboration with all school districts in Franklin County. Our award-winning early childhood centers also enroll typically developing children, who attend as peer models.

To make an Early Intervention referral for children under 3, call 1-800-755-GROW or go to <https://ochids.odh.ohio.gov/public/refer>.

For children between 3 and 6, and for questions about Franklin County DD Early Childhood Education, call 614-342-5801 or email ecewebsite@fcbdd.org.





School and Transition Services

Franklin County DD collaborates with local schools and families to make sure students with developmental disabilities have the support and services they need to thrive.

While in school, all students receiving special education services have an IEP (Individualized Education Program), which outlines a personalized plan. Some Ohio students with an IEP follow a typical pathway to meet graduation requirements and earn a diploma, while others with an IEP remain in school and continue receiving special education and related services through age 21.

Eligible students from any of the 16 public school districts in Franklin County also may be able to enroll at West Central School and Transition Services, a dynamic program for students with significant disabilities age 14 to 22.

Operated by Franklin County DD, West Central supports teens and young adults who require intensive individualized instruction and therapeutic services. Professional staff focus on helping students develop functional skills for independent living, communication, employment and social interaction.

Community exploration—from recreational outings to vocational and volunteer opportunities—is a hallmark of the West Central experience. Students have access to on-site therapy, an indoor aquatics center, an outdoor learning environment and transportation services.

No matter what school a student attends, Franklin County DD can provide guidance on transition planning. As students move from classrooms to adulthood, we're available to help families understand Medicaid waivers, provider agencies, employment services, residential options and more.

Learn more about West Central and transition services by calling 614-276-8231 or visit <https://wcs.fcddd.org/>.

Housing Options, Employment and Day Support for Adults

For adults with developmental disabilities, Franklin County DD can help navigate pathways to community life, including housing, employment and day support programs. Our staff does not directly deliver these services, but they work to connect people to the programs and providers that do.

Housing options vary, depending on the type of setting desired and the services needed. Intermediate care facilities—known as ICFs—offer 24-hour, on-site care and have at least four residents. Other community options include independent living, living with family, and supported- or shared-living arrangements.

While at home, people with disabilities may need support services for just a few hours each week or up to 24 hours a day. In some situations, support can be provided remotely instead of in person, using live, two-way communication so that off-site staff can stay in touch and monitor for safety while giving the person more privacy and independence.

Rent assistance for community living is based on the person's ability to pay and may include funding from local, state or federal sources.

Franklin County DD also strives to connect people with developmental disabilities to **job opportunities** that work for them.

Ohio follows an Employment First philosophy, which means that people with disabilities can and should have opportunities to work in the community. Franklin County DD links job-seekers to the vocational supports—from job coaching to skills development to transportation—they need to succeed.

Adult day support is a non-residential service that allows people with developmental disabilities to attend programs that build community connections, foster friendships, work on skills to boost independence, and receive assistance with personal care.

Contact our Service Coordination Department at 614-464-2743 for more information.



Service Coordination, Person-Centered Plans and Safety

Service coordinators are like case managers for people receiving services from Franklin County DD:

- They get to know people and families, finding out about their needs and goals.
- They help to develop and oversee personalized plans for services.
- They work to provide connections to the resources and services that help fulfill the person's vision of a good life.

After working alongside the individual or family to write their Ohio ISP (Individualized Service Plan), service coordinators use the document as a person-centered blueprint for life. The plan is referred to, revised and updated periodically, or as circumstances change.



Not all of the adults and children receiving services from Franklin County DD have a service coordinator and not all have the same types of service plans. But if you have a Medicaid waiver through Franklin County DD (see page 10 to learn about waivers), you are required to work with a service coordinator. (Other counties use the title 'SSA', for service and support administrator, instead of service coordinator.)

If you or your child do not have a service coordinator, but want to request one, you can discuss your needs with an intake specialist or other service coordination team member.

Franklin County DD also is available 24/7 for emergencies and to report an MUI, or major unusual incident. An MUI is an alleged, suspected or actual occurrence of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a person who receives services through the DD system.

The Franklin County DD MUI Unit investigates all MUIs to ensure that any needed action is taken, and to keep people safe.

Any concerned person can report an MUI by calling 614-464-2743. Service Coordination can be reached at the same number.



Advocacy, Athletics and Recreation

From sports competitions to social gatherings and legislative advocacy, Franklin County DD supports many recreational and community-focused activities for people with developmental disabilities.

We strive to provide opportunities that promote inclusion and help make our community welcoming and accessible to everyone.

And we believe that self-advocacy gives people with disabilities more control over their lives, empowering them to live as independently as possible.

- The Franklin County Special Olympics program is open to people 8 years and older who have completed the intake process and are eligible for Franklin County DD services. Training and athletic competition are offered year-round in a variety of sports. Call 614-342-5989 for information.
- Franklin County Recreation, a program funded by Franklin County DD and operated by the nonprofit organization Hattie Larlham, includes hundreds of active members taking part in evening and weekend social activities, including restaurant outings and travel. The program offers adults new experiences that promote independence, socialization and community integration. Call 614-607-7751 to learn more.
- The Franklin County DD Self-Advocate Advisory Council meets regularly to discuss issues important to the lives of people with developmental disabilities, to practice and promote advocacy skills, and to plan and host inclusive community events. All adults who are part of the Franklin County DD community and are interested in self-advocacy are welcome. Call 614-342-5984 for details.



Ohio's DD System: State Oversight, Local Services, Medicaid Waivers

In Ohio, the state Department of Developmental Disabilities oversees the rules, regulations and operations of the DD system statewide, but the support that people receive is coordinated at the county level. Franklin and other county DD boards determine eligibility, assess needs, and create service plans for their local residents.

These services are paid for with local, state and federal funds—especially Medicaid. Medicaid is the federal healthcare program for people with disabilities and/or low incomes. It also covers much of the in-home and community-based services people with disabilities rely on to live safely and take part in community life.

Many adults and some children who are eligible for Franklin County DD services are enrolled in a component of Medicaid known as the Home- and Community-based Waiver program. Having “waiver” programs means that states get to waive, or not follow, certain Medicaid rules so that people can receive services at home and in the community instead of licensed facilities.

There are different types of Medicaid waivers in the DD system, and they have different rules and spending ranges. Depending on assessed needs, waivers can pay for a broad range of services, including:

- Home and personal care such as cleaning, cooking, hygiene and medication administration
- Transportation, supported employment and vocational habilitation
- Adult day support, community participation
- Home modifications, assistive technology and remote supports

While Franklin County DD employees work in our early intervention and school programs, the agency does not directly provide adult services. Most Medicaid-funded services are delivered through local nonprofits and businesses that work in the disability field.

For more information about local providers, email provider.relations@fcbdd.org; to learn more about Medicaid waivers, visit <https://dodd.ohio.gov/waivers-and-services/waivers/>.

Directory

Services supported by Franklin County DD are provided at numerous places throughout Franklin County.

Contact information for our primary agency sites and departments is below; For details on contract agency locations or phone numbers, or for other Franklin County DD departments, call 614-475-6440 or visit fcbdd.org.

Regular hours at our administrative offices are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Contact us by email at website@fcbdd.org.



Department	Address	Phone Number
Intake Office	1600 Watermark Dr., Columbus, OH 43215	614-342-5490
Major Unusual Incidents (MUI) /24 Hour #	2879 Johnstown Rd., Columbus, OH 43219	614-464-2743
Early Childhood Education & Family Center	2879 Johnstown Rd., Columbus, OH 43219	614-475-0564
Early Childhood Learning Center	4141 Rudy Rd. Columbus, OH 43214	614-451-6418
West Central School	1481 W. Town St. Columbus, OH 43223	614-276-8231
Service Coordination / 24 Hour Emergency #	1600 Watermark Dr., Columbus, OH 43215	614-464-2743
Transportation Services	2879 Johnstown Rd., Columbus, OH 43219	614-475-5910
Administrative Offices	2879 Johnstown Rd., Columbus, OH 43219	614-475-6440



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Columbus, OH 43219



Phone
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Website
www.fcbdd.org

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