

ASK DEAR WANDA

Dear Wanda -- I filled out all my paperwork with the County some time ago, and they told me I am on the Waiting List. How long will I wait? –Tired of Waiting

I don't know. The Waiting List for services includes about 22,000 people across the State. The most important thing for you to do is make sure you are keeping in touch with your Supports Coordinator and that your PUNS form is updated and accurate. While you are waiting for Waiver funding, ask your Supports Coordinator if there is any BASE MONEY or Family Support money. They may be able to get you some limited support, such as respite. The only way you can get Waiver services is if funding is allocated by the State for new people to enroll into the programs, or if someone in your County leaves the program, and I can't say when that may happen.

Good Luck,
Wanda

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**Dear Wanda -- How do I find out what number I am on the Waiting List? –Frustrated Family**

The Waiting List is not like a deli line where you take your number and wait for your turn. People are not assigned a position. When funding for services becomes available from the State, the AE/County must look at serving the folks in Emergency category first. Make sure your Supports Coordinator gets to know you and your family member and what you need. The AE/County chooses who will get the "Waiver slot". You can visit the PA Waiting List website to find out how many people in your County are waiting in each category.

Be Persistent,  
Wanda

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Dear Wanda -- I am new to this system, so I was wondering when I should apply for a waiver for my son? –Parent of a 13 yr. old

First you should register for Mental Retardation Services at your County MH/MR office. Then, if you don't have an MA Card (Medicaid), you should apply for one. Once you are registered and have your Medical Access Card, the AE/County **MUST** offer you the chance to fill out your Home and Community-Based or ICF/MR Application and Service Delivery Preference Form (DP 457). When you choose Home and Community, you are applying for the Waiver. Waivers are for people 3 and older, so I recommend that you apply now. If the AE/County or your Supports Coordinator tells you that you can't or shouldn't apply, you can Appeal that decision. If you have a problem or need more information contact the ODP Customer Service Line at 1-888-565-9435, the Partnership at 1-866-865-6170, or a local advocacy organization.

Great Question!
Wanda

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