



The Waiver Waiting List is Changing: Attend Community Meetings to Learn More

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The Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) will host community meetings across the state to share information regarding changes to the waiting list for waiver services. Individuals or family members currently on the "Request for Services Registry," known as the waiting list for the New Opportunities Waiver or Children's Choice Waiver, are encouraged to attend one of these meetings to learn more details of the planned changes.

Since the program's inception in Louisiana, access to home and community-based waiver services has been first-come, first-served. With close to 16,000 people with developmental disabilities on the waiting list, and a wait time of over twelve years, it is time to do things differently. Fortunately, after several years of planning with input from stakeholders, OCDD is prioritizing the people on the waiting list according to the urgency of their needs. After completing a screening on each person, individuals with developmental disabilities have been divided into categories, with those in emergent need to be served first. People will be re-screened on a regular basis and can request a re-screening if their needs change.

Advocating for funding for additional waiver slots has been an ongoing priority for the Council since the waiver's inception over twenty-five years ago and will continue until all those needing supports to live at home in the community receive those supports. The Council appreciated the opportunity to participate with individuals with developmental disabilities, parents, and other advocates in the planning for this prioritization and is pleased that people in emergent situations will have their needs met first, enabling them to remain at home and connected to their communities.

There are other details about the planned changes not able to be included in this article. It is therefore important to attend the meeting in your area to learn more. See schedule, location of meetings, and contact information [here](#).

Contact Us

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