

Welcome To

iBudget Florida

*A guide to individualized budgets
for people served through APD's Medicaid waivers*



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida
Areas 1 and 2

iBudget Florida

Welcome to a new program called iBudget Florida!

As an APD customer in area 1 or 2, you will receive services through the new iBudget Florida waiver beginning October 1, 2011. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) wants your move to iBudget Florida to be simple and easy. This brief guide will tell you about iBudget Florida and explain how you will start getting services under the new waiver. Please read the following information very carefully. If you have questions, visit iBudgetFlorida.org or call your waiver support coordinator.

What is iBudget Florida?

- iBudget Florida is a way for APD to better manage the waiver system, while giving you more choice and control over your services.
- In iBudget Florida, you will get a budget, or a set amount of funds, for waiver services.
- You will move from your current tier waiver to the iBudget Florida waiver.
- You won't get the actual money, but you will get to make more decisions about how to spend your budget for services as long as your health and safety needs are covered. However, you will need to make your budget last until the end of the service plan year.
- You don't have to do it all yourself! Your waiver support coordinator will still be helping you.

Why did APD create iBudget Florida?

- APD created iBudget Florida because the Florida Legislature wants APD to improve how the waiver system operates.
- APD worked with people with developmental disabilities, family members, waiver support coordinators, large and small providers, advocates, and many others to create the iBudget Florida plan. This helped APD gain a better understanding of what different people wanted to see in the waiver system to make it work better.
- While iBudget Florida will benefit you, it will also help APD spend just the amount of funds that the Legislature gives it for waiver services. The goal of iBudget Florida is to help APD serve individuals with developmental disabilities far into the future!

Can I receive the same services that I receive now?

- You will be able to choose services that are similar to the ones you receive now. The list of services and service families is in the back of this guide.
- Similar services are grouped together in service families to help you choose among them.
- Customers who have been in Tier 4 will have a wider array of services to select from, including Adult Dental Services.
- Your support coordinator will give you a letter from APD that lists your pre-approved services. From that list you can build your iBudget Florida cost plan.

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What will my budget be?

- To start with, your budget will be the cost plan amount you have just before you move to iBudget Florida.
- In the future, APD may be determining everyone's budgets based on a formula that looks at your age, your type of living situation (whether you live with family, in your own home or in a group home) and the kind of support that you need that is identified in the agency-approved assessment—the Questionnaire for Situational Information (QSI). All of this information will be used to help the APD determine the amount of money that can be approved to assist you in your needs. The amount of money that is approved for you now may change once the agency has completed this process.
- Your waiver support coordinator will work with you to help you meet your needs.

When will I get started on iBudget Florida?

- Your waiver support coordinator will call you to set up a meeting. At that meeting, he or she will advise you of your budget amount. You will begin receiving services through iBudget Florida on October 1, 2011.

What do I need to do to get ready for iBudget Florida?

When you meet with your waiver support coordinator, here is what you'll need to do.

- Work with your waiver support coordinator to create your iBudget Florida cost plan.
- Choose the services you will pay for with your iBudget amount.

How does this affect CDC+ participants?

- Participants in Consumer-Directed Care Plus will move to the iBudget Florida waiver, but will manage their budgets in the same way they do now. CDC+ participants in areas 1 and 2 will not move into iBudget Florida on October 1, 2011, but will do so at a later time.
- The consultants' role will not change.
- In the near future, consultants will provide CDC+ participants with more information from APD on how the transition to iBudget Florida will affect them.

Which level of waiver support coordination do I choose?

There will be three levels of waiver support coordination to choose from in iBudget Florida, and all of them will help you manage your budget and services. The three available levels are Limited, Full, and Enhanced. Each of these levels is described on the following page. For health and safety reasons, some people will be required to select a certain level of waiver support coordination.

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- **Limited Support Coordination**

This level of support coordination gives you less support than Full Support Coordination and will use less of your budget. However, Limited Support Coordination is not provided 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

If you choose Limited Support Coordination, you'll have to do some things yourself, such as interview potential providers; schedule appointments with providers; and locate, secure, and coordinate natural, community, and other supports. The waiver support coordinator will talk to you about how to do these things. The waiver support coordinator will still be on call for true emergencies after hours.

- **Full Support Coordination**

Full Support Coordination will provide a lot of support to you. The support coordinator is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The support coordinator will work with you to find, choose, and set up services and supports.

If you choose Full Support Coordination, the funding for this service will come from your budget allocation. For some people, changing to a higher level of support coordination means you may need to get less of other services to free up funding for this level of waiver support coordination.

- **Enhanced Support Coordination**

Enhanced Support Coordination will assist you if you are moving to the community from a nursing facility, ICF/DD, or an ICF/DD unit in one of APD's Developmental Disabilities Centers— Tacachale in Gainesville or Sunland in Marianna. Enhanced support coordination will give you a lot of help for a short period of time while you move into your community.

Other individuals can get Enhanced Support Coordination if they have enough funding for it in their budgets. It offers more face-to-face contact with your waiver support coordinator and a greater level of assistance than full support coordination.

If you are not required to receive a different level of support coordination, you may select enhanced support coordination at any age. However, enhanced support coordination is more expensive and will use more of your budget than full or limited support coordination.

iBudget Florida Services

On the next page is a complete list of services offered in iBudget Florida. The services that you actually receive on your cost plan will depend on how you meet the criteria in the *iBudget Florida Coverage and Limitations Handbook*, the amount of your budget allocation, the other resources available to you, and other factors.

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Life Skills Development	Life Skills Development Level 1 <i>(formerly known as companion)</i>
	Life Skills Development Level 2 <i>(formerly known as supported employment)</i>
	Life Skills Development Level 3 <i>(formerly known as adult day training)</i>
	Family and Legal Representative Training <i>(not available yet)</i>
Supplies and Equipment	Consumable Medical Supplies
	Durable Medical Equipment and Supplies
	Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
	Personal Emergency Response Systems <i>(unit and services)</i>
Personal Supports	Personal Supports <i>(includes services formerly known as in-home supports, respite, personal care and companion; for individuals age 21 or older, living in their own home or family home; also for those at least 18 but under 21 living in their own home)</i>
	Respite Care <i>(for individuals under 21 living in their family home)</i>
Residential Services	Standard Residential Habilitation
	Behavior-Focused Residential Habilitation
	Intensive-Behavior Residential Habilitation
	Live-In Residential Habilitation
	Specialized Medical Home Care
	Supported Living Coaching
Support Coordination	Limited Support Coordination
	Full Support Coordination
	Enhanced Support Coordination
Therapeutic Supports and Wellness	Private Duty Nursing
	Residential Nursing
	Skilled Nursing
	Dietician Services
	Respiratory Therapy
	Speech Therapy
	Occupational Therapy
	Physical Therapy
	Specialized Mental Health Counseling
	Behavior Analysis Services
	Behavior Assistant Services
Transportation	Transportation
Dental Services	Adult Dental Services

iBudget Florida

APD is excited to welcome you to iBudget Florida!

There are several ways to get more information about this new program:

- Visit our new iBudgetFlorida.org website.
- Ask your waiver support coordinator.
- Call your APD area office:

Area 1 • (850) 595-8351 • Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties

Area 2 • (850) 487-1992 • Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, and Washington counties

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