

Frequently Asked Questions – General

Question	Answer
<p>What is iBudget Florida?</p>	<p>iBudget Florida is a way for APD to better manage the waiver system, while giving customers more flexibility. Individuals will get an allocation of funds, or iBudget, at the beginning of the service plan year. The individual will be assisted by their waiver support coordinator (WSC), who will enter information into the iBudget electronic application. When individuals and WSCs use the iBudget application to develop and review cost plans, the review process for approval of the services will be much quicker than in the current waiver system. Customers will have flexibility to use the funding for necessary services as long as their health and safety needs are covered. Each individual, with the help of the WSC, will need to budget the funding to last for the entire fiscal year (12 months.)</p>
<p>Is everything going to be different under iBudget Florida?</p>	<p>In iBudget Florida, a lot will stay the same for customers and their families. Waiver support coordinators will still be there to help and the service providers will remain the same unless the customer wants to change service providers. All services must be provided by providers that are enrolled as Medicaid waiver providers. Available services will be the same or very similar. In addition, customers who have been in the Tier 4 waiver will have more services to choose from, including Adult Dental.</p>
<p>What is the goal of iBudget Florida?</p>	<p>iBudget Florida is designed to give individuals more self-direction and to be a simpler system in terms of review and approval of services. The iBudget electronic system provides waiver support coordinators with a more accurate and simpler system to adjust services for the individual as needs change throughout the year.</p>
<p>Who helped to create the iBudget Florida waiver?</p>	<p>APD worked with a diverse group of people, including individuals with developmental disabilities, family members, waiver support coordinators, large and small providers, and APD staff members. This group of people met regularly for more than 18 months to design the iBudget system so that individuals who receive services can be served more efficiently.</p>

<p>How do I use the iBudget allocation for my services and supports?</p>	<p>iBudget Florida is part of the overall solution to serving people with developmental disabilities fairly. An individual's needs will be met by blending the individual and family resources, community services, services provided under the Medicaid State Plan, and other state programs. The iBudget waiver funds should be used for those service needs that cannot be met by these other resources. This new iBudget electronic system will require less paperwork and will allow waiver support coordinators more time to help find additional resources to meet the individual's needs.</p>
<p>What other states are using waivers like iBudget Florida?</p>	<p>Some examples are Connecticut, Louisiana, Georgia, Colorado, and Minnesota. APD talked with experts in several of these states to learn how they implemented their individual budgeting waivers.</p>
<p>How will my funding be determined?</p>	<p>APD will determine your new iBudget after considering several factors, including a formula that looks at your age, your living situation (whether you live with family, in your own home, or in a group home) and the kind of support that you need according to the agency-approved assessment—the Questionnaire for Situational Information (QSI). All of this information will be used to help APD determine the amount of money that can be approved to assist you in meeting your needs, especially those involving health and safety.</p>
<p>Will I still have a waiver support coordinator or consultant?</p>	<p>Yes, you will still have a waiver support coordinator, or, if you are in Consumer-Directed Care Plus (CDC+), you will still have a consultant. That person will help you in ways that are similar to how he or she helps you now. However, with the new iBudget Florida system, he or she will be able to help you more by looking for supports and services in your local community prior to using waiver funds to pay for a service.</p>
<p>Can iBudget amounts be changed or increased if there is a significant life change?</p>	<p>Budget amounts will be changeable only if there is a dramatic change in an individual's situation which leads him or her to be unable to meet critical health and safety needs within the current funding amounts.</p>
<p>Will a new QSI assessment be conducted on all individuals or will the results of the prior QSI be used to help determine the iBudget?</p>	<p>The QSI is conducted every three years. An individual's most recent QSI results will be used.</p>
<p>What if we think the current QSI (subjective portion) doesn't reflect the person's current situation?</p>	<p>Your local APD area office can review individual situations regarding the QSI, and if appropriate, a new QSI can be conducted.</p>

I'm a participant in Consumer-Directed Care Plus. Will CDC+ continue?	Yes. It will continue to be an option. If you are on CDC+, you will continue to manage your budget like you do now.
Will iBudget Florida have the same or less flexibility than CDC+?	It will have less flexibility than CDC+. Under the new individual budgeting system, customers would be required to use Medicaid-waiver-enrolled providers. In CDC+, customers may use workers who are not Medicaid-waiver-enrolled providers.
Will I get to use the same providers?	Yes. APD will be working with Medicaid-waiver-enrolled providers to help them transition easily and smoothly to providing services under iBudget Florida.
Must a provider be enrolled with Medicaid to provide services under iBudget Florida?	Yes, for iBudget Florida, a provider must be an approved Medicaid waiver provider in order to provide and bill for iBudget Florida services.
What will happen with the waiver handbook that now governs services?	The Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) are creating a new handbook to clarify all aspects of iBudget Florida, including the eight service families.
What are the eight service families?	The eight service families are Life Skills Development, Supplies and Equipment, Personal Supports, Residential Services, Support Coordination, Therapeutic Supports and Wellness, Transportation, and Dental Services. For more information, visit the iBudget Florida Services page , or from the homepage, choose Basics.
How will iBudget Florida impact the current waiting list?	iBudget Florida is for current waiver enrollees, who will transition from the tier waivers into the new system. However, iBudget Florida is intended to offer more financial stability in the waiver system so that additional funding appropriated in the future by the Legislature may fund individuals now waiting for waiver services.