

## Communicating with the Community

In an effort to better communicate with and provide community resources to individuals, families and supporters, ODS offers:

- › Information about services, resources and events shared through Key Communicator emails.
- › ODS Fact Sheets. Topics include eligibility, registration, services, transition and supports coordination.
- › Outreach to share information with anyone who wants to learn more. ODS is available to provide presentations or host information tables. We will share details regarding supports through the Allegheny County DHS and ODS as well as important community resources.
- › Information about Charting the LifeCourse to assist families and individuals in identifying and navigating community supports
- › Information on the DHS website includes Key Communicator sign up details, current Fact Sheets, and several links to information and websites regarding the service system and community resource lists.

For more information call 412-253-1251 or visit [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/ODS](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/ODS)



### DHS IS

responsible for providing and administering publicly funded services to Allegheny County residents.

### DHS PRINCIPLES

All services will be

- high quality, comprehensive, and accessible.
- individualized and designed to be respectful of the unique cultural characteristics of each individual and/or community
- integrated and offered through a team approach that recognizes the capacity of individuals and families to identify their own strengths, needs, and goals; create relationships with natural supports; and take steps necessary to accomplish these goals.



## Office of Developmental Supports

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The Allegheny County Department of Human Services does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of a protected class including: race; color; religion; national origin; ancestry or place of birth; sex; gender identity or expression; sexual orientation; disability; marital status; familial status; age (40 and older); use of guide or support animal because of blindness, deafness, or physical disability.

*DHS funding information is available at [www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/dhs/funding.aspx)  
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## Office of Developmental Supports



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN SERVICES**

[alleghenycounty.us/dhs](http://alleghenycounty.us/dhs)



Our mission is to foster an inclusive person-centered, meaningful life for individuals and families who live with Developmental Disability, Medically Complex Condition, Intellectual Disability or Autism diagnosis.

## Eligibility

Those who may be eligible to register with ODS and access Supports Coordination include:

- › Individuals with Intellectual Disability (ID)
- › Individuals with Autism
- › Children with Developmental Disability (DD) prior to age 9 and
- › Children and Youth with Medically Complex Condition (MCC) prior to age 21

Everyone must meet all PA Department of Human Services (PA DHS) Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) established criteria. For complete eligibility criteria and requirements call 412-253-1250.

## How to Get Started

Start with a call to us at 412-253-1250. An Intake Specialist will guide you through registration. After ODS reviews needed documents and determines you meet eligibility requirements, we will meet with you in-person or virtually.

Guided by the principles and values of Everyday Lives - Values in Action and Charting the LifeCourse (CtLC), ODS staff can share helpful community resources with you. **Learn more about Everyday Lives and CtLC at [www.myodp.org](http://www.myodp.org).**

## Supports Coordination

Your Supports Coordinator (SC) will learn what life experiences are important to you. With you, your family and the people that support you they'll assist with creating a person centered Individual Support Plan (ISP). This may include ideas for you to

- › Engage in a more meaningful life
- › Be well supported in your home
- › Fully access and participate in your community
- › Remain healthy and safe
- › Find and keep a job you like
- › Enjoy desired activities
- › Learn new things
- › Successfully transition to adulthood
- › Provide a break for a caregiver

An ISP includes current and needed, natural (unpaid/friends and family), paid and community supports and services.

Individual Support Plans, supports and services will reflect and be guided by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) principles of Everyday Lives - Values in Action. These values include safety, quality, success and communication.

**Learn more at [www.MyODP.org](http://www.MyODP.org) and the PA ODP website [www.dhs.pa.gov](http://www.dhs.pa.gov)**



## The Time to Plan is Now

You can register and start working with an SC, even if services are not currently needed. An SC can help you navigate systems and connect you to resources in the community.

It is especially important for eligible youth, ages 14 to 21 years, to register. Supports Coordinators can be vital members of transition teams during this time of preparation for life after high school. Developing a strong ISP and documenting student's needs in a timely way allows ODS to plan for these transition-age youth most effectively.

More generally, it's critical for all registered individuals to engage in planning for future needs with their SC. Individuals identified with an emergency need for funded services can request a Consolidated, Community Living (CLW) or Person-Family Directed Support (PFD) waiver. This is done through documentation completed with their SC. These waivers can provide funding for home and community-based services to support such things as

- › Employment / meaningful day activities
- › Community participation
- › Health and safety
- › Building and maintaining relationships
- › Effective communication

Everyone registered with ODS receives SC services. Individuals receive waiver funding based on need and availability.



**Scan the QR code to contact ODS**