

# Level One Waiver Handbook



*A Guide To:*  
What Services are Covered, and for How Much?  
Who is Eligible?

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The Mission of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities  
is continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio's citizens  
with developmental disabilities and their families.

**Ohio** | Department of  
Developmental Disabilities

John Kasich, Governor

John L. Martin, Director



# Level One Waiver Handbook

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## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Who Is Eligible? .....	4
Service Definitions .....	4-6
Homemaker/Personal Care .....	4
Transportation .....	4
Remote Monitoring .....	4
Respite Care (Informal, Residential, Community).....	5
Supported Employment (Community, Enclave).....	5
Adult Day Support .....	5
Vocational Habilitation .....	6
Non-Medical Transportation .....	6
Home-delivered Meals .....	6
Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies .....	6
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations .....	6
Personal Emergency Response Systems .....	6
How Does Budgeting Work For This Waiver? .....	8
Sample Budgets for Specific Services .....	7-8
Emergency Assistance .....	8
Level One Waiver Cost Limitations Chart .....	9
Who Can Help Me Get A Level One Waiver? .....	9
Where Are The Rules For This Waiver? .....	9
Who Provides Services Paid For With This Waiver? .....	9



## Introduction

The Level One Waiver is a Medicaid waiver for people with developmental disabilities who meet certain eligibility criteria.

The waiver allows people to stay in their homes and get support, rather than require them to live in an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID).

The Level One Waiver offers the following services with set spending limits for ‘service packages’:

- Homemaker/Personal Care
- Transportation
- Informal Respite
- Residential Respite
- Community Respite
- Remote Monitoring
- Remote Monitoring Equipment
- Supported Employment - Community
- Supported Employment - Enclave
- Adult Day Support
- Vocational Habilitation
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Personal Emergency Response Systems
- Home-delivered meals

This guide is to help you understand this waiver, learn about the services it provides, and the eligibility requirements. It is divided into sections:

- Who Is Eligible?
- Service Definitions
- How Does Budgeting Work for this Waiver?
- Level One Waiver Cost Limitations Chart
- Who Can Help Me Get A Level One Waiver?
- Where Are the Rules for this Waiver?
- Who Provides Services Paid for with This Waiver?

*(cont. on p. 4)*



# Level One Waiver Handbook

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(cont. from p. 3)

## Who Is Eligible?

The Level One waiver is for people with developmental disabilities who:

- Meet the criteria for the care given in an ICF, but want to live in their community. The cost for assistance cannot be more than what the Level One waiver allows, while ensuring health and welfare.

## Service Definitions...

**Homemaker/Personal Care** is provided in a person's home and helps a person with daily living activities such as personal hygiene, dressing, and eating. *These services include:*

- Basic personal care and grooming: bathing, hair care, and help with clothing.
- Helping the person to use the bathroom.
- Help with medications that are usually self-administered when ordered by a doctor.
- Household services essential to a person's good health and comfort such as changing bed linens.
- Light cleaning in areas of the home used by the person.
- Preparation of a shopping list, grocery shopping and meal preparation.
- Laundry
- Other neighborhood errands including going to medical appointments or taking walks.
- Other activities that ensure the enrolled person's safety, health and welfare.

**Transportation** enables people on the waiver to travel to waiver and community services, activities and resources. Whenever possible, family, neighbors, friends or community agencies that can provide Transportation without charge will be used.

**Remote Monitoring** means the monitoring of an individual in his or her residence by staff using one or more of the following systems: live video feed; live audio feed; motion sensing system; radio frequency identification (RFID); web-based monitoring system; or other device approved by DODD. The system shall include devices to engage in live two-way communication with the person being monitored.

**Remote Monitoring Equipment** means the equipment used to operate Remote Monitoring Systems.

(cont. on p. 5)



(cont. from p. 4)

## Service Definitions...

**Respite Care** is support on a short-term basis for the person who receives the waiver, to give family members a break.

- **Informal Respite** can be provided in a person's home, the home of a friend or family member of the individual, or at sites of community activities; or,

- **Residential Respite** means the care is provided in a Medicaid-certified ICF, a facility licensed by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), or by an agency provider.

- **Community Respite** means services provided to individuals unable to care for themselves that are furnished on a short-term (60-day) basis because of the absence of or need for relief of those persons who normally care for the individuals. Community Respite shall be provided only outside of an individual's home in a camp, recreation center, or other place where an organized community program or activity occurs.

**Supported Employment** services are intensive, ongoing supports that help people to perform work in a regular employment setting, including self-employment. *Supported Employment does not include sheltered work or other vocational services furnished in specialized facilities.*

There are two types of **Supported Employment** services:

- *Community* -- Provided to individuals who work in an integrated community work setting, along side employees without disabilities, and performing same or similar tasks.
- *Enclave* -- Provided to individuals who work as a team at a single work-site (community business or industry) with ongoing support provided by on-site staff.

**Adult Day Support** services are provided separately from any home or facility in which an individual resides, focus on non-work activities, and include five components:

- *Assessment* -- May be formal or informal, for the purpose of developing an Individual Service Plan (ISP);
- *Personal Care* -- Includes personal hygiene, eating, communication, mobility, toileting, and dressing;
- *Skill Reinforcement* -- Includes implementing behavioral intervention plans, and help with the use of communication and mobility devices;
- *Training in Self Determination* -- Includes developing self-advocacy skills and acquiring skills that enable an individual to become more independent;
- *Recreation and Leisure* -- Includes supports identified in the ISP that are therapeutic, and help to develop and maintain social relationships and family contacts.

(cont. on p. 6)



## Level One Waiver Handbook

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(cont. from p. 5)

### Service Definitions ...

**Vocational Habilitation** services are designed to teach and reinforce concepts related to work, including responsibility, attendance, task completion, problem solving, social interaction, motor skill development, and safety.

**Non-Medical Transportation** is transportation necessary to access Adult Day Support, Vocational Habilitation, Supported Employment-Enclave, and Supported Employment-Community waiver services, as specified by the Individual Service Plan. Non-Medical Transportation is available in addition to the Transportation waiver service, used primarily in connection with the provision of Homemaker/Personal Care.

**Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies** include:

- Devices, controls or appliances that allow people to do daily living activities or to help them communicate;
- Items necessary for life support, and the supplies and equipment necessary for upkeep; and
- *durable and non-durable equipment* that is not paid for by the Medicaid State Plan.

**Environmental Accessibility Adaptations** (Home Modifications) are changes to a home that enable a person to function with greater independence. They might be called many things, including 'home modifications,' 'home mods,' or 'changes to your home.' *Examples include:*

- Installing ramps and grab-bars
- Widening doorways
- Modifying bathrooms to be wheelchair accessible
- Installing specialized electric and plumbing systems to accommodate medical equipment

**Personal Emergency Response Systems** are electronic devices that a person with a disability uses to get help in an emergency. For example, the system may be a portable 'help' button connected to a person's phone that is programmed to send a signal to a response center when the 'help' button is pressed. Trained professionals staff the response center.

To qualify for Personal Emergency Response Systems, a person must:

- Live alone and/or can be alone for significant parts of the day, and
- Have no regular caregiver for extended periods of time, and
- Otherwise require extensive routine supervision.

**Home-delivered Meals** mean the preparation, packaging, and delivery of meals to people who are unable to prepare or get nourishing meals. The waiver will provide up to two meals a day, seven days a week.



(cont. from p. 6)

## How does Budgeting Work for this Waiver?

- Homemaker/Personal Care
- Transportation
- Informal Respite
- Residential Respite
- Community Respite
- Remote Monitoring
- Remote Monitoring Equipment
- Supported Employment - Community
- Supported Employment - Enclave
- Adult Day Support
- Vocational Habilitation
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Personal Emergency Response Systems
- Home-delivered meals

### Service

Homemaker/Personal Care  
 Residential Respite  
 Informal Respite  
 Transportation  
 Community Respite

### Annual Limit



NOTE: Pre-approved budget amounts may be adjusted by the County Board to meet health and welfare needs up to a combined benefit of \$5,000 in EACH YEAR THE INDIVIDUAL IS ENROLLED.

## What does that mean? Here's a sample budget:

Service	Annual Limit
Homemaker/Personal Care	\$1,500
Residential Respite	\$1,000
Informal Respite	\$2,500
Transportation	\$ -0-
Community Respite	\$ -0-

The total limit for these five services can never be more than \$5,000 per year. But, the services and their amounts could potentially be changed according to your needs, and with pre-approval of the County Board of DD.

## The following services have limits over a 3-year period:

Service	3-Year Limit
Personal Emergency Response Systems	
Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies	
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations	
Remote Monitoring	
Remote Monitoring Equipment	
Home-Delivered Meals	



NOTE: Combined total 3-year limit of \$7500



# Level One Waiver Handbook

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## What does this mean?

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (EAA) are changes to your home to make it easier for you to get around. You can spend up to \$7,500 during a 3-year period for changes to your home to make it easier to get around if this is where the need is the greatest, and if health and welfare can be met, and you get pre-approval from the County Board of DD.

If you spent \$7,500 on EAA, this would mean you would have no money for Personal Emergency Response Systems or Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies, Remote Monitoring, Remote Monitoring Equipment, or Home-Delivered Meals for the next three years. Your plan would then look like this:

Service	3-Year Limit
Personal Emergency Response Systems	\$ -0-
Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies	\$ -0-
Environmental Accessibility Adaptations	\$7,500
Remote Monitoring	\$ -0-
Remote Monitoring Equipment	\$ -0-
Home-Delivered Meals	\$ -0-

**Emergency Assistance** provides increased levels of covered services in crisis situations.

**Crisis situations** are:

- Involuntary loss of home for any reason, including legal action.
- Loss of caregiver including death of a caregiver or changes in the caregiver’s mental or physical status that makes them unable to do their duties.
- Abuse, neglect or exploitation of the person.
- Health and welfare conditions that pose a serious risk of immediate harm or death to the person.
- Significant changes in the emotional or physical condition of the person that require more support than the current caregiver can provide.

The services available under **Emergency Assistance** are: Homemaker Personal Care; Residential Respite; Personal Emergency Response System; Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies; Environmental Accessibility Adaptations; Transportation; Remote Monitoring; Remote Monitoring Equipment; and, Informal Respite.

The limit for **Emergency Assistance** is \$8,000 in a 3-year period.

Service	3-Year Limit
Emergency Assistance	\$8,000

**Emergency Assistance** is not a service itself. It is help for you when something unexpected happens. For example, if a family member who cares for you is put in the hospital for several weeks, you would qualify for emergency help. The limit for emergency help is \$8,000 total, for three years. Or, if you have an emergency and need more help than your caregiver can give you, Emergency Assistance would help pay for that care. Remember, the limit is \$8,000, total, over three years.





## DODD Level One Waiver Cost Limitations

\$5,000/year cap for any combination of:	\$7,500 cap over 3 years for any combination of:	EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: \$8,000 cap over 3 years for any combination of the following (as needed to support an individual in an emergency situation):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homemaker/Personal Care</li> <li>• Residential Respite</li> <li>• Informal Respite</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Community Respite</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal Emergency Response Systems</li> <li>• Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies</li> <li>• Environmental Accessibility Adaptations</li> <li>• Remote Monitoring</li> <li>• Remote Monitoring Equipment</li> <li>• Home-Delivered Meals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homemaker/Personal Care</li> <li>• Residential Respite</li> <li>• Personal Emergency Response System</li> <li>• Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies</li> <li>• Environmental Accessibility Adaptations</li> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Remote Monitoring</li> <li>• Remote Monitoring Equipment</li> <li>• Informal Respite</li> </ul>

### Who Can Help Me Get A Level One Waiver?

To apply for the Level One Waiver or another waiver for people with developmental disabilities, contact your County Board of DD.

### Where Are The Rules For This Waiver?

The rules are available on the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) website at 'Rules in Effect': <https://doddportal.dodd.ohio.gov/rules/ineffect/Pages/default.aspx>.

### Who Provides Services Paid For With This Waiver?

Individuals receiving Level One waiver services can select providers of their choice. Providers can be found by using the "Provider Search" tool on the DODD website at [www.dodd.ohio.gov](http://www.dodd.ohio.gov). Persons or agencies interested in providing Level One waiver services may apply for certification through the DODD website. Certification must be obtained before delivering services to people enrolled in the Level One waiver. For information about the certification process or requirements, call the DODD Support Center at 1-800-617-6733.