

### **Funding Guidelines**

It is the Board's policy that the needs of individuals and/or families be established first before determining the funding source(s) for services. After the needs of the individual have been established, consideration should be given to the funding source(s) available to meet those needs.

With respect to funding sources, it is the Board's position that:

1. The first funding source to meet the individual's needs should be those sources typically used by the general public. This could be other community agency services, private insurance, personal income, or other sources.
2. The second source is the combination of local, state and federal funds. The decision whether to use local, state or federal (Medicaid) funds depends upon the following:
  - A. The availability of funds.
  - B. Whether or not the individual is eligible for the funding source (e.g. Medicaid)
  - C. Whether or not the funding source can meet the needs of the individual.
  - D. The individual's ability and/or choice to comply with the funding requirements.
3. If there are insufficient funds to fund all or part of the services, the individual has the choice of:
  - A. Receiving only those services that can be funded and being placed on a waiting list for the services that can not.
  - B. Not accepting any funding and being placed on the appropriate waiting list for funding and services.

Medicaid is a funding source. Annually the Board shall establish a budget that will be used to provide matching funds for Medicaid services. When given the opportunity to decide whether to seek or add Waiver slots, the Board's decision will be based upon the Board's commitment to giving priority to the aging caregivers in Erie County as well as the financial resources available. This decision means that the Board is going to look at the individuals at the top of the waiting list and request the appropriate funding sources to meet their needs.

This does not mean that the Board will not attempt to meet people's needs nor that the Board will discourage anyone in Erie County from requesting or seeking a Medicaid Waiver, including the Level 1 Waiver. If an individual or family requests a Level 1 Waiver that request shall be processed as any other waiver request. It is the Board's position that it will continue to inform families of the various funding sources available, including the various Medicaid Waivers available through the state. And, if a particular Waiver is the funding source that best meets the individual's or family's needs, and the family wants a Waiver, and the Board is able to provide the match then a request for a waiver will be made of the Department. If the Board is unable to provide the match for the waiver, then the request will be submitted along with the request for the state to provide the Medicaid match. If neither the Board nor the State is able to provide the match, the individual or family will be placed on the appropriate waiting list.