

FAMILY DIRECTED RESOURCES POLICY

The Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Board) in keeping with its mission provides locally funded resources to support families in providing for unique needs related to qualifying disabilities. The Family Directed Resources Program is committed to supporting families to increase their capacity to care for individuals in the family home as well as support individuals with disabilities to become more independent in the home and community. Through the Family Directed Resources Program, the Board shall provide disability focused financial support to all individuals determined eligible for Board services.

The Superintendent shall establish, revise, and keep current the procedures to be utilized in the implementation of this policy. The Superintendent/designee shall ensure compliance with these procedures. All revisions and changes will be shared with the Board when made.

Superintendent Signature:  Date: 7/17/25

Implemented: 01/2016

Board Approval: 01/2006, 5/18/17, 2/15/18, 2/20/20, 9/17/20, 8/18/22, 7/20/23, 7/17/25

Revised: 4/16/09, 2/18/10, 9/21/11, 12/19/12, 5/7/13, 2/19/15, 9/17/15, 5/18/17, 2/13/18, 2/20/20, 9/17/20, 8/18/22, 7/20/23, 7/17/25

Reviewed: 5/18/17, 2/13/18, 2/20/20, 9/17/20, 8/18/22, 7/20/23, 7/17/25

Cross Reference: Family Directed Resources Program

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I. ADMINISTRATION

The Board shall contract for the administration of Family Directed Resources (FDR). The contract agency shall review each request.

II. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All of the following must be met:

- A. A resident of Erie County; and
- B. Eligible for services from the Board according to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 5126; and
- C. The individual is not otherwise supported financially by the Board through other funding options.

III. REQUESTING SERVICES

- A. Family or designee completes, signs, and sends the request form to the contracting agency.
- B. All requests are directly connected to addressing the individual's developmental disability.
- C. The contracting agency reviews the request for completeness, and if the request is complete, it will be processed within seven (7) business days.
- D. If follow-up is needed to process the request, the contracting agency will follow-up with the family or designee.
- E. The contracting agency reviews and approves or denies the request:
 - 1. If approved, the contracting agency processes the request within seven (7) business days.
 - 2. If denied, the contracting agency will notify the family and provide the family with the Erie County Board of Developmental Disabilities Administrative Resolution of Complaints Policy and Procedures.
- F. The contracting agency orders and tracks all equipment requests.

IV. FUNDING GUIDELINES

- A. Funding shall be based on availability of funds.
- B. The allocation of dollars will be set on an annual basis by the Board.
- C. The contracting agency can authorize expenditures up to the allocation amount.

V. PAYMENT INFORMATION

- A. Requests will be honored if funds are available and the request is consistent with the definition of approved services.
- B. Payments will be drawn from the calendar year in which services were rendered and not later than February 15th of the following year. All respite payment requests must be submitted within 30 days following the date of the respite service.
- C. Original invoices, quotes, and/or receipts are required in order to process payments, if applicable.
- D. Misuse of funds may result in the termination of FDR for one (1) year.

VI. DENIAL OF SERVICES

- A. The individual/family does not meet eligibility requirements.
- B. The family has used all the annual allocation.
- C. The requested service does not reflect the mission of FDR.

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- D. The services requested are not approved FDR services.
- E. The request is not directly connected to addressing the individual's developmental disability.
- F. The requested service is a typical expense incurred for a typical individual of the same age.
- G. Service was not rendered within an eligible FDR program year.
- H. The services should be paid for by another entity.

VII. UNAPPROVED SERVICES

- A. Family vacations;
- B. Utility bills;
- C. Rent, deposits, mortgages;
- D. Luxury items such as televisions, DVD's, video game systems, swing sets;
- E. Handheld devices that are not for speech purposes (Leapster);
- F. Maintenance and repair of approved items;
- G. Services that are reimbursable through another community resource or insurance provider;
- H. Typical expenses incurred for a child or adult of the same age;
- I. Damages to property;
- J. Educational services other than summer programming;
- K. Insurance co-pays and deductibles;
- L. Requests which do not meet the criteria for the category of service;
- M. Safety gates under age 3;
- N. Fencing;
- O. Specialized foods, formulas or supplements related to an allergy diagnosis;
- P. Preferences for organic foods, probiotics or supplements not specifically prescribed by a physician for a defined diagnosis that impacts development;
- Q. Motorized Toys;
- R. Recreational equipment such as trampolines, bounce houses or other gross physical activity structures over 4 feet in diameter.

VIII. CATEGORIES OF SERVICE

- A. Respite:
 - 1. The respite request cannot exceed fourteen (14) continuous days.
 - 2. Respite is typically available only to children over 11 years of age.
 - 3. The respite request may be provided out of the county.
 - 4. Respite is intermittent and a "non-routine break in caregiving.
 - 5. Respite services will be reimbursed at the community standard for similar types of services.
 - 6. Respite payments will not be reimbursed without the completion of all appropriate paperwork.
 - 7. Respite providers must be at least 18 years of age.
 - 8. Respite providers may not live in the family home.
 - 9. Respite providers are determined by the family as appropriate to care for their family member.
- B. Adaptive Equipment, Equipment/Item Modification and Developmental Items:
All items require a professional recommendation to support the purchase of the item unless designated otherwise. This is NOT a comprehensive list, NOT limited to items listed below.

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1. Wheelchairs;
2. Adaptive strollers;
3. Adaptive seating and supports;
4. Communication devices;
5. Feeding and food preparation items;
6. Modified or cost of modification to clothing;
7. Adaptive or specialized switches;
8. Specialized bathing and toileting devices;
9. Modifications to tricycles and bicycles;
10. Weighted vests and/or blankets;
11. Vehicle modifications;
12. Sensory items;
13. IPAD's as a speech device (over age 3 only);
14. Developmental items not to exceed \$300 annually;
- NO RECOMMENDATION IS REQUIRED** for the following:
15. Diapers for a child beyond toilet training age (3+ years of age).

C. Technology:

The use technological support that replace and/or reduce the need and cost for direct services and increase independence. Technology options may include but are not limited to the items listed below. All items require a professional recommendation to support the purchase of the item to INCLUDE why the need to be addressed is not a 'typical' developmental milestone.

1. Computer based skill development and prompting systems;
2. Task scheduler and/or to complete daily routines;
3. Emergency Response Systems/Elopement systems;
4. Video Monitoring;
5. Cost of repair and maintenance of technology devices;
6. Internet services necessary for an approved purpose identified within this section, costs may not exceed a maximum of \$50 per month or the cost of the actual service whichever is lesser.

D. Home Modifications:

Permanent structural changes require three (3) estimates. Written approval from the landlord is required if change is being made to a rental property, including but not limited to:

1. Inside and outside ramps and walkways;
2. Bed modifications (over age 3);
3. Bathroom modifications;
4. Specialized fire alarm equipment;
5. Wheelchair ramps;
6. Temporary modifications such as gates (over age 3);
7. Window guards.

E. Special Diets (Require a recommendation of a physician or registered dietician.):

Food products and supplements that are required to meet nutritional needs beyond the typical developmental stage. A nutritional supports form is required for:

1. Commercial dietary supplements.
2. Baby foods beyond 12 months of age.
3. Blender/food processor for making pureed foods.

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4. Thickening agent related to a diagnosis that impacts development and nutritional intake.
5. Gluten free foods related to a diagnosis that impacts development and nutritional intake.
6. Probiotics prescribed by a physician for an identified diagnosis that impacts development and nutritional intake.
- F. Education for Family:
 1. Educational and nutritional trainings for families that have a direct focus on the individual's area of disability.
 2. Registration fees for these opportunities are eligible at 100% cost.
 3. Hotel room reimbursement is available not to exceed \$125.00 per day. (Does not include food, phone charges, or movie rentals.)
 4. Mileage can be reimbursed at \$0.62 per mile not to exceed a maximum of 200 miles per training.
- G. Therapy/Training:
 1. Traditional Therapy Services; physical, speech and occupational therapy services, counseling, and psychological/behavioral services.
 2. Non-traditional therapy services: including massage, reiki, music, art, swim or equine.
 3. Training or programming to aid the in developing skills for transition.
 4. Educational materials (up to \$150 per year).
- H. Travel:
 1. Gas Cards- out of county travel only:
 - a) \$40.00 maximum per round trip;
 - b) Verification of attendance at appointment is required.
 2. Reimbursement- in and out of county travel:
 - a) Reimbursement is \$0.62 per mile;
 - b) Reimbursement occurs after verification of attendance to appointment has been received.
 3. Transportation to/from specialized summer programs.
 4. Transportation to/from employment related activities.
 5. Taxicab reimbursement.
 6. Public transportation reimbursements.
 7. Tolls/parking fees in conjunction with reimbursements for approved appointments.
 8. Hotel accommodations related to necessary out of county medical procedures and hospitalizations, not to exceed \$125.00 per day, reimbursement occurs after the stay.

IX. APPEAL PROCESS

- A. All families have the right to appeal decisions, families may exercise their appeal rights in either an informal or formal manner. Families may choose to initiate either the informal and formal appeal process simultaneously.
- B. Informal resolutions may occur by first contacting the contracting agency to resolve issues. If this method does not resolve the issue, a formal conflict resolution can occur.
- C. Formal resolutions shall follow the appeals process outlined in the Erie County Board of DD's Administrative Resolution of Complaint Policy.

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X. REQUESTS TO EXCEED ALLOCATION

Requests to exceed an allocation can be addressed in writing to the contracting agency and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Decisions will be made based on the unique needs of the eligible individual.

- A. If a request to increase is greater than the allocated amount but less than 50% of the full allocation the request will be submitted to the Director of Strategic Initiatives for consideration of approval.
- B. If a request exceeds 50% but is less than 75% the request will be submitted to Director of Strategic Initiatives for consideration by the Superintendent.
- C. Any request that exceeds 75% of the allocation will be sent to the Board for review and consideration of approval.