



Family Support Services Program (FSSP)
P.O. Box 31 / 336 S. 10th St., Montrose, CO 81402

Eligibility

- Birth through age five requires determination of a developmental delay through Child Find
- Age five + requires determination of an intellectual developmental disability by a CCB

Enrollment

Complete an Application for services, an Assessment of Needs, and develop a family support plan with the FSSP Manager

Early Intervention (EI) Enrollment

EI Service Coordinator serves as the case manager, will enroll family in FSSP and the IFSP will be used as the family support plan used to alleviate unnecessary duplication for families along with a purchasing timeline with needs identified.

Services and Supports

All services must be related to the individual's developmental disability/developmental delay, and must be provided in the most cost effective manner. Services and supports shall be authorized pursuant to a family support plan which may include service coordination, information and referral, educational materials, outreach services and other person and family centered assistance services.

Respite: Care to provide relief to the caregiver to allow engagement in personal/social/routine activities/tasks that otherwise may be neglected or postponed due to caretaker demands. Services are for the individual with a developmental disability or delay only.

Professional Services: Requires the therapist to be licensed or certified. May include counseling, vision, therapies, and home health services to the individual with an intellectual developmental disability or delay.

Medical/Dental: Expenses not covered by Medicaid, other medical or health insurance, or other programs.

Transportation: Transportation expenses are mileage costs resulting from appointments.

Assistive Technology: Equipment that is necessary such as wheelchairs, braces, special beds, switches, communication devices, glasses, hearing aids, and special kitchen appliances.

Environmental Engineering: Home or vehicle modifications needed due to the individual's disability or delay, adaptations which are directly related to the person's disability/delay.

Parent and Sibling Support: Expenses for family members who live in the household include counseling, training, membership for support organizations, child care (e.g. child care for siblings while the person with a disability/delay is being taken to doctor appointments, therapies or other activities),

Other Individual Expenses: Direct enhancement of social or community inclusion for the person with a developmental disability, specialized clothing, developmental materials, home health and homemaker services or other expensed approved by the Council.

Assessment of Needs

The assessment assists in prioritizing family needs and funding level. The Most In Need Assessment is scored based on the answers provided and looks at other resources, supports, and financial benefits/programs that any member of the family living in the home is receiving. The assessment contains five domains; 1) Type of disability/delay and overall care need, complexity of medical or personal care needs of the individual, the need for frequency and amount of direct assistance required to care for the individual and the types of services needed that are above and beyond what is typically needed for any individual. 2) Individual's behavior is identified by the degree to which the individual's behavior is disruptive to or impacts the day-to-day operation of the family. 3) Family composition and stability which considers obligations and limitations of the parent (s), the number of siblings, disabilities of other family members living in the home, age of parents and medical condition of parents. 4) Family access to support networks which includes the level of isolation or lack of support. 5) Family access to resources such as income, and insurance coverage.

Funding

Funds are available within the current fiscal year. To meet legislative intent the prioritization of State FSSP funding for "families most in need" may result in reduction or termination of funding to some families who were previously funded. You will receive a notice in writing if this should occur and you do have the right and opportunity to dispute the decision. Each family is funded based on their level of need i.e.: low, moderate, and high need categories based on the Most In Need Assessment. Additional funding may be available through an internal re-allocation process with FSSP council approval to meet specific/unmet needs of families served.



Family Support Plan

Once a needs assessment is completed, you and the case manager or EI service coordinator will develop a plan with the authorized family representative and reviewed at least annually or as needed to reflect family needs. Each plan shall include the name of the person with a developmental disability/delay, the names of family members living in the household, the prioritization of needs, specific types of services and supports, an explanation of desired results, action steps and timelines for accomplishing the results.

Payment Options

Payments can be made in the way of reimbursement to the family by submitting receipt(s) or a signed statement of expenditures, direct payment to a professional therapist (when prescribed by a licensed physician or specialized therapist), and services and supports paid for by the program directly to merchant/vendor.

- Reimbursements will be paid by check to the parent/guardian one time a week and mailed (unless otherwise indicated)
- Payments made directly to a licensed therapist will be paid by check and mailed once service is rendered and receipt/invoice is received with parent/guardian authorization
- Cash advance must be accompanied by a written and signed *Cash Advance Form* and approved by the FSSP Manager

Wait List

A wait list for eligible individuals shall be maintained when Department funding is unavailable in the current fiscal year. Individual's determined to be most in need of support services shall be served prior to individuals at a lower level of need. Individuals waiting for family support services and supports are eligible to apply for emergency funding.

Emergency Funding

The family support services program retains an emergency fund to assist families with short term crisis or emergency situations that may arise. All funding requests must be approved by the FSSP Advisory Council/FSSP Allocation Committee. It is recommended that you put your emergency funding request in writing.

Family Empowerment

Families are best able to determine their own needs and preferences and should be empowered to make decisions concerning necessary, desirable and appropriate services and supports. Families are the greatest resource available to a person with an intellectual developmental disability (I/DD) or developmental delay and must be supported in their role as primary care givers. FSSP is responsive to the needs of the entire family unit and is sensitive to the unique strengths and needs of the family. FSSP encourages the inclusion of people with I/DD and developmental delays within the community. Services shall be based on the principles of sharing ordinary places, developing meaningful relationships, learning things that are useful, and making choices. Policies enhance the development of the person with an I/DD or developmental delay and the family to provide sufficient services and supports.

FSSP Allocation Committee

The allocation committee is maintained to assist the Family Support Council in making decisions, developing policies and procedures. The committee serves as the primary entity for data entry of the FSSP information into the Department prescribed system including an outline of use of the FSSP funds. This committee is also responsible for the implementation and ongoing operation of the FSSP. The members of the committee are professionals from the Community Centered Board.

Family Support Council

The Community Centered Board (CCB) ensures that a Family Support Council is maintained to provide direction and assistance to the CCB in developing an annual family support services program plan, providing guidelines, advocacy, recommendations, program monitoring, policy and procedures for the program as appropriate at the local level. The council is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the FSSP and quality assurance activities on an annual basis. The majority of members are from the service area and families with a person with an intellectual developmental disability or developmental delay.

→ If you would like to apply to be a member of the FSSP Council, please call the FSSP Manager, Debra Anderson directly.