

 VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Family Services Policy Manual		<h1>154</h1>
Chapter:	Coordinating with Others	
Subject:	Developmental Services for Children in Custody	Page 1 of 2
Approved:	Fredrick M. Ober, Division Director	Effective: 5/1/98 FINAL
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Purpose

Children in custody who have developmental disabilities are often adequately supported in standard family foster care. Some children, however, may require specialized services to enhance support for the child and his or her foster family. Developmental service agencies may offer these services, which include, but are not limited to case management, respite care and in-home support.

The Division of Development Services (DDS), part of the Department of Developmental and Mental Health Services, plans, coordinates, administers and evaluates state and federally funded services for individuals with developmental disabilities. DDS contracts with a number of community-based developmental services agencies to provide services to children, including case management, respite care, in-home support, and infrequently, residential care in developmental homes. Services are provided within the constraints of DDS's budget and availability of programs.

Our division and DDS have signed an agreement, dated 10/20/97 that clarifies financial responsibility for services delivered to children in care and their foster families. The following policy applies to children in custody with developmental disabilities.

Policy

Children Placed at Home

When children are placed at home, each division will make decisions regarding funding and services as usual. Services provided by DDS shall not be construed as child protection and should not be used to prevent removal from the home for protection reasons.

Children in Out-of-Home Placements

The Family Services Division is responsible for planning and financially supporting services for children as is customary for any child in custody. The Family Services Division may obtain needed developmental services to support the child and foster family by one or two mechanisms:

- Direct contracts with a local developmental services agency;
- Home and Community Based Waiver.

DDS shall reserve a total of 15 waiver slots for children in out-of-home placement. The spending cap will be determined annually. The district office is responsible for the cost of basic room and board as well as the Medicaid match for the cost of services delivered under the waiver. Any child on a waiver will be subject to DDS quality review monitoring. Waiver funds may not be used to pay for any costs associated with residential placements with more than six residents or for out-of-state placements.

Social Worker Tasks

- Requests services from the local developmental services agency.
- If the child is determined eligible for services, works with developmental services worker and other members of the child's treatment team to develop a services plan and budget. (Note: for foster care to be paid for by contract or the waiver, the monthly payment may not exceed the rate of payment set annually by the commissioner of developmental and mental health services.)
- Submits plan and budget to the placement consultant.
- Completes appropriate placement paperwork, according to agreed upon method of payment.
- Informs the placement consultant when terminating use of a contract or waiver, or when the child is leaving custody.

Central office Tasks

- Determines the most appropriate payment mechanism (waiver or contract) and notifies district office, the developmental services agency and DDS.
- Informs the developmental services agency when terminating use of a contract or waiver, or when the child is leaving custody.
- Tracks and monitors use of waiver slots.

DDS Tasks

- Reviews budgets to ensure that service costs are consistent with statewide norms.
- Formalizes agreement by sending letter to district director which includes the amount of Medicaid match to be paid to DDS as part of regular inter-departmental transfers.