

SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Web address: <http://www.state.sc.us/ddsn/>

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Provider/Service Directory:

<https://app.ddsn.sc.gov/public/directory/landing.do>

Email/web contact form: <http://www.ddsn.sc.gov/about/Pages/ContactUs2.aspx>

Mission:

Where We Are Going

- To provide the best in services to assist persons with disabilities and their families in South Carolina.

What We Do

- Assist people with disabilities and their families through choice in meeting needs, pursuing possibilities and achieving life goals, and minimize the occurrence and reduce the severity of disabilities through prevention.

Our Guiding Beliefs

- Health, safety and well-being of each person
Dignity and respect for each person
Individual and family participation, choice, control and responsibility
Relationships with family, friends and community connections
Personal growth and accomplishments

Features of Services and Supports

- Person-centered and Community Inclusive
Responsive, efficient and accountable
Practical, positive and appropriate
Strengths-based, results-oriented
Opportunities to be productive, and maximize potential
Best and promising practices

Services Provided:

Individual/Family Support Services:

Individual/family support services often enable people with disabilities to remain in their own homes.

These support services include:

- Early intervention is a family-focused, in home service for children from birth to age 6. An Early Interventionist helps families understand their child's development and gives specific training to address areas of delay. Service Coordination is provided in accordance with an Individualized Family Service Plan. DDSN's Early Intervention program serves children and families, some of whom are eligible for BabyNet in their own home or in the child's natural environment.
- Genetic evaluation, treatment and counseling services are available to families in which a developmental disability has occurred and to families at risk of having a child with a disability or a special need. Emphasis is on preventing disabilities, when possible.

- Respite services provide temporary care to individuals, allowing families or caregivers to handle emergencies and personal situations or take a break. Respite may be provided in the individual/family home, a qualified caregiver's home, regional center or other locations.
- Financial Assistance is available to help individuals/families afford the cost of care for an individual in their own home. Funds are available for transportation, specialized equipment, child care, recreation and other needs.
- Individualized summer services provide financial assistance for families whose family members with a disability attend activities selected by the person or the parents. Participants attend various types of summer activities, from traditional camps to highly individualized services and activities.
- Summer camps provide supervised recreational activities for children and adults. Day camps and residential camps are available.
- Individual Rehabilitation Support Services are interventions designed for each person to develop an enhanced capacity for independence, self-direction and participation in community activities. Supports include interventions intended to develop or restore functional abilities, personal identity, responsibility and self-direction. The services are provided in the person's own community and home.

Day Services for Adults:

Service Coordinators assist with planning for transition from school to adult day services. Local DSN Boards and providers offer a variety of day services, including supported employment, adult activity and center based work programs in local communities.

Supported employment provides assistance to obtain and sustain employment. This service enables people to earn wages and opportunities to interact with non-disabled workers.

Supported employment includes job coaching and enclave and mobile work crew opportunities.

- Job coaches develop employment opportunities and work with participants on a one-to-one basis to teach them the skills necessary to perform and maintain a particular job. Assistance is also provided to help individuals develop job-related skills such as money management, use of transportation and interpersonal skill development
- Enclaves provide work for groups of adults at a local industry or business. Participants work on-site. These jobs often lead to competitive employment.
- Mobile work crews train teams of adults to work in their community and perform services such as lawn care, janitorial or landscaping services.
- Center-based services provide a safe and healthy environment for people to develop social and personal care skills for more independent and productive lives. Participants may receive competitive wages for work.

Residential Services:

- Supervised Living Programs provide adults with needed support in order for them to live in apartments, duplexes or other (single family) housing. Supervision and support services are tailored to the person's needs.
- Community Training Homes (CTH) offer people the opportunity to live in a homelike environment under the supervision of qualified and trained staff.

- Personalized care, supervision and individualized training are provided for no more than four people living in a home.
- Caregivers are either trained private citizens who provide care in their own homes (CTH I), or employees who provide care in a home that is owned or rented by the provider organization (CTH II).
- Community Intermediate Care Facilities/Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) Residences These community residences offer a community living option to those people who need maximum support for their high levels of need. Twenty-four-hour care, supervision, training, recreation and other activities are provided in this structured environment.
- Regional Residential Centers provide 24-hour care, supervision and treatment to DDSN's most fragile consumers with the greatest need for support. Regional Center care is generally recommended only when all other appropriate community services are not available.

Prevention and Genetic Services:

DDSN has established many prevention programs and activities to prevent or reduce primary and secondary disabilities in South Carolina. Activities implemented through DDSN's prevention programs include:

- SC Neural Tube Defect Awareness & Prevention Initiative: The goal of this project is to reduce the number of babies born with neural tube defects in South Carolina by encouraging all women of childbearing age to take a multivitamin with folic acid every day. The project includes research, professional education and a public Awareness campaign.
- Steps to Your Health is a wellness program for adults with disabilities focusing on nutrition, exercise and stress management.