

Step 1

Apply for services with the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN)

<https://ddsn.sc.gov/>

The South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN) is the state agency that provides services to children and adults with severe, lifelong disabilities.

Why is applying for DDSN services the most important thing you will do?

The most important services to meet an individual's life-long needs are obtained through entrance into a Medicaid service program. The DDSN delivery system relies predominately on Medicaid programs to leverage state funding to maximize services available to the ID/DD community. As a result, individuals will need to obtain Medicaid eligibility to access most of the ID/DD services offered through DDSN.

The Medicaid Programs serving ID/DD are both Home and Community-Based (HCBS) and Intermediate Care Facilities. HCBS Programs are the ***Community Supports Waiver, ID/RD Waiver, and the Head and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver.***

An overview of at-home services to enable individuals remain in their own home include:

- Respite services provide temporary care to individuals, which allows families or caregivers to handle emergencies, personal situations, or take a break.
- At-Home Supports provides support for independent living, such as access to the community, pay bills, shop for groceries, access medical care, and other personal assistance as needed.
- Employment Services provide 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, work enclaves, and mobile work crew opportunities.
- Adult Day Services provide a safe and healthy environment for people to develop social and personal care skills for more independent and productive lives.
- Individual and Family Support is available to assist individuals and families who incur additional expenses due to the individual's disability.

Residential services support individuals based on their unique needs, which include:

- Supported and Supervised Living Program Models provide adults with needed support to live in apartments or other (single family) housing. Supervision and support services are tailored to the person's needs.
- Community Training Home (CTH) Models offer people the opportunity to live in a homelike environment under the supervision of qualified and trained staff. Caregivers are either trained private citizens who provide care in their own homes (CTH I) or service provider employees caring for individuals in a home operated by the provider agency (CTH II). A variation of CTH IIs (up to 4 individuals) are Community Residential Care Facilities, which normally serve about 8 individuals.
- ID/DD Community Intermediate Care Facilities are residences for individuals needing maximum support for their high levels of need. Twenty-four-hour care, supervision, training, recreation, and other activities are provided in this structured environment.
- ID/DD Regional Center Intermediate Care Facilities are operated by the state at five locations across the state, which provide 24-hour care, supervision, and treatment to DDSN's most fragile individuals with the greatest need for support. Regional Center care is generally recommended only when all other appropriate community services are not available.

Apply Today

By Phone, Toll Free at: **1-800-289-7012**

Available 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday through Friday

Please read this entire page. It tells you important information you need to know before you call.

How to request DDSN Eligibility:

- Call Toll Free 1-800-289-7012, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM-5:00 PM
- Have the following information about the applicant available:
 - Full Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Social Security Number
 - Medicaid Number if Medicaid eligible
 - Home Address
 - Phone Number
 - E-mail Address, if available
- Plan to spend about 15 minutes on your call.
- You will be asked questions to establish your residency in South Carolina.
- You will be asked questions to get general information about your disability.
- You will be asked to select three (3) Intake Service Providers from a list read to you over the phone. The Intake Provider will help you through the Eligibility process at no cost to you. DDSN will contact the Intake Service Provider(s) you choose.
- You will receive a letter from DDSN confirming your application for DDSN eligibility.
- The Intake Service Provider you choose, or an Autism Eligibility Coordinator will contact you by telephone within two (2) weeks and will provide you information and collect medical and educational records needed by DDSN to determine eligibility.
- Once appropriate records are submitted by the Intake Service Provider or the Autism Eligibility Coordinator, DDSN will notify the applicant in writing of their eligibility status.

Step 2

Select a Case Management Provider

Once you open your case with the DDSN, you will need to choose a case manager. We have provided a couple of options below.

The Case Manager is an individual advocate who helps:

- Identify and address individual needs and concerns.
- Helps acquire services or things you and your family may need.
- Provides customized services and supports to fit each family's requests.
- Constructs lifelong plans.
- Creates and develop opportunities.
- Coordinates resources.
- Monitors and evaluates satisfaction and services.

SC AUTISM SOCIETY

(803) 750-6988 (Office)

(803) 750-8121 (Fax)

<http://www.scautism.org>:

Address Information:

806 12th Street

West Columbia, SC 29169

The South Carolina Autism Society provides case management for individuals with autism spectrum disorders. We offer services to residents in most counties throughout South Carolina. *Any individuals who qualify under the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs guidelines for Autism Services are eligible for our assistance.*

THE ARC OF SOUTH CAROLINA

(803) 445-1026 (Fax)

(803) 748-5020 (Office)

<http://www.arcsc.org>

Days of Operation: Monday - Friday

Hours of Operation: 8 am - 4:30 pm

Executive Director: Margie Moore- Williamson

Address Information:

1202 12th St.

Cayce, SC 29033

The Arc promotes and protects the human **rights** of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. *Our case management department helps you and your family navigate and facilitate enrollment in Department of Disabilities and Special Needs services.*

Step 3 (Adults)

Apply for services with the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department (VR)

<https://scvrd.net/>

Vocational Rehabilitation prepares and assists eligible South Carolinians with disabilities to achieve and maintain competitive employment.

Why seek VR services?

If you have a disability, we can help you understand the options available in becoming or staying employed. Individualized services are provided at offices around the state and may include:

- Assessment for eligibility, career exploration, and planning for employment
- Disability management through counseling, therapies, treatments, or assistive devices
- Training to enhance skills using instruction and work experiences in our offices, on worksites, or through educational partnerships.
- Job search assistance to help you find competitive employment, and support once you are on the job.

Eligibility

- Do you have a physical or mental disability (examples include ADHD, dyslexia, diabetes, heart condition, chronic pain, traumatic brain injury, ASD, etc.)?
- Do you want to find or keep a job?
- Can you benefit from our services?
- VR may be able to assist you in finding or keeping employment.

To Apply contact your local VR department:

Conway

3009 4th Ave.
Conway, SC 29527
843-248-2235

Georgetown

1777 N Fraser St.
Georgetown, SC 29440
843-546-2595

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income

<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/>

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs provide assistance to people with disabilities. This page provides detailed information about disability benefits and can help you understand what to expect from Social Security during the disability process. Before you apply, take time to review the basics, understand the process, and gather the information and documents you will need to complete an application.

The Basics About Disability Benefits

The Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program pays benefits to you and certain [family members](#) if you are “insured,” meaning that you worked long enough – and recently enough – and paid Social Security taxes on your earnings. The [Supplemental Security Income](#) (SSI) program pays benefits to disabled adults and children who have limited income and resources.

While the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are different, the medical requirements are the same. If you meet the non-medical requirement criteria, monthly benefits are paid if you have a medical condition that is expected to last at least one year or result in death.

The Disability Application Process

The disability benefits application process follows these general steps, whether you apply online, by phone, or in person:

- You gather the information and documents you need to apply. We recommend you print and review the [Adult Disability Checklist](#). It will help you gather the information you need to complete the application.
- You complete and submit your application.
- We review your application to make sure you meet some [basic requirements](#) for disability benefits.
- We check whether you worked enough years to qualify.
- We evaluate any current work activities.
- We process your application and forward your case to the Disability Determination Services office in your state.
- This state agency completes the disability determination decision for us.

Apply For Benefits Online

Follow these easy steps to apply online for disability:

- To start your application, go to the Apply for Benefits page, and read and agree to the Terms of Service. Click “Next.”
- On that page, review the “Getting Ready” section to make sure you have the information you need to apply.
- Select “Start A New Application.”
- We will ask a few questions about who is filling out the application.
- You will then sign into your “*my Social Security account*”, or you will be prompted to create one.
- Complete the application.

You can use the online application to apply for disability benefits if you:

- Are age 18 or older.
- Are not currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record.
- Are unable to work because of a medical condition that is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death; and
- Have not been denied for disability in the last 60 days.

You can now also file for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) online but only if you:

- Are between the ages of 18 and 65.
- Have never been married.
- Are a U.S. citizen residing in one of the fifty states, District of Columbia, or the Northern Mariana Islands.
- You have not applied for or received SSI benefits in the past.
- Are applying for Social Security Disability Insurance at the same time as your SSI claim.

Other Ways You Can Apply

Apply with Your Local Office. You can do most of your business with Social Security online. If you cannot use these online services, your local Social Security office can help you apply. Although our offices are closed to the public, employees from those offices are assisting people by telephone.

Social Security Office Information

Address: STE 301
611 BURROUGHS AND CHAPIN BLVD
MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577

Office: 1-888-577-6601

Apply By Phone

Call 1-800-772-1213 from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to apply by phone.

Mailing Your Documents

If you mail any documents to us, you must include the Social Security number so that we can match them with the correct application. Do not write anything on the original documents. Please write the Social Security number on a separate sheet of paper and include it in the mailing envelope along with the documents.

Ticket to Work

<https://www.ssa.gov/work/>

Welcome to the Ticket to Work Program!

Social Security's Ticket to Work Program supports career development for Social Security disability beneficiaries age 18 through 64 who want to work. The Ticket Program is free and voluntary. The Ticket Program helps people with disabilities progress toward financial independence. Individuals who receive Social Security benefits because of a disability and are age 18 through 64 probably already qualify for the program.

The [Ticket to Work \(Ticket\) program](#) is a good fit for people who want to improve their earning potential and are committed to preparing for long-term success in the workplace. The Ticket program offers beneficiaries with disabilities access to meaningful employment with the assistance of Ticket to Work employment service providers called Employment Networks (EN).

The goals of the Ticket Program are to:

- Offer beneficiaries with disabilities expanded choices when seeking service and supports to enter, re-enter and/or maintain employment;
- Increase the financial independence and self-sufficiency of beneficiaries with disabilities; and
- Reduce and, whenever possible, eliminate reliance on disability benefits.

The beneficiary does not need a paper ticket to participate. Under this program, eligible beneficiaries with disabilities who are receiving monthly benefit payments are entitled to participate by signing up with an approved service provider of their choice. This can be an Employment Network (EN) or a State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agency. The EN/State VR agency, if they accept the ticket assignment, will coordinate and provide appropriate services to help the beneficiary find and maintain employment. These services may be training, career counseling, vocational rehabilitation, job placement and ongoing support services necessary to achieve a work goal.

The Advantages of the Ticket Program:

While participating in the Ticket program, beneficiaries can get the help they need to safely explore their work options without immediately losing their benefits and find the job that is right for them. Beneficiaries also can use a combination of Work Incentives to maximize their income until they begin to earn enough to support themselves. Therefore, the individual can:

- Go to work without automatically losing disability benefits.
- Return to benefits if he or she must stop working.
- Continue to receive healthcare benefits; and
- Be protected from receiving a medical Continuing Disability Review (CDR) while using the ticket and making the expected progress with work or educational goals.

Contact Information:

Visit <https://choosework.ssa.gov/mycall/> to sign up for free information. Or contact one of our representatives through the Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY).

Be one of the many people who have connected with us for important information about work as a path to financial independence!

Additional Resources

ABLE-SC

<https://www.able-sc.org/>

Able SC is a Center for Independent Living (CIL) organization who helps people with disabilities by self-empowerment. It is a consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability nonprofit that provides an array of independent living services to empower people with disabilities to live active, self-determined lives including advocacy, services, and support.

Melissa Snyder works at ABLE SC. She is trained to work with families in all counties of SC, to help them navigate the SSI/SSDI process while working.

Melissa 803-509-6556 msnyder@able-sc.org

Coast RTA

<https://coastrta.com/paratransit-service/>

Coast RTA's Paratransit Services are designed for persons who are unable to access our fixed routes independently and safely due to physical or mental disabilities. Services are available in areas of Horry and Georgetown Counties within a ¾ mile radius of any Coast RTA fixed route. Coast RTA's Paratransit Program is a curb to curb, shared ride, transportation service. Advanced reservations are required. The service is available to anyone pre-qualified (and certified by a medical professional) on the basis of having a physical or mental disability, whether short-term or permanent.

Disability Rights South Carolina

<https://www.disabilityrightssc.org/>

The protection and advocacy system for South Carolina. They help people with disabilities understand and defend their rights by providing a variety of services including client assistance, training, abuse & neglect investigation, legal assistance, and advocacy for change.

Erin Haire can help if there are overpayment issues with SSI/SSDI.

866-275-7273 info@disabilityrights.org

Get Care SC

<https://www.getcaresc.com/>

GetCareSC is a resource that allows seniors, caregivers, and adults with disabilities to search for service providers in their area.

Horry County WAVES

<https://transitionalliancesc.org/local-teams/horry/>

Horry County WAVES collaborates to provide resources, education, and support to transition aged youth and their families. Our goal is to link youth and families with post-secondary opportunities in the community.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF MYRTLE BEACH

<https://mbhaonline.org/>

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) is a program that helps low-income families to afford to remain in the rental unit that they have found. A growing body of evidence suggests that housing vouchers promote positive outcomes for children and help families leave welfare and succeed in the workplace – by enabling families to move out of high-poverty areas and into neighborhoods with more jobs, lower crime, and better schools. The Housing Authority of Myrtle Beach (MBHA) administers 660 HCV vouchers. The only HUD eligibility requirements are:

- Income, participants must be below 30% of the median income for Horry County.
- Eligible Citizen Status
- Participants must not be registered sex offenders.
- Other local eligibility limitations may apply. MBHA does criminal background checks

MBHA also administers **Mainstream vouchers** for non-elderly disabled households. The waiting list is the same as the HCV program. Priority is given to disabled households on the HCV waiting list.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF CONWAY

<http://www.housingauthorityofconway.com/>

Low-income public housing was established to provide decent, safe, and affordable housing for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. The Housing Authority of Conway has units with one to five bedrooms.

The Housing Authority of Conway determines eligibility based on:

1. Annual Gross Income
2. Whether you qualify as elderly, a person with a disability, or as a family.
3. U.S. citizenship or eligible immigration status.

If a family is eligible, the Housing Authority of Conway will check references to ensure the family will be a good resident. The Housing Authority of Conway will deny admission to any applicant that may be detrimental to other residents and the community's environment.

LIFE PROGRAM AT CCU

<https://www.coastal.edu/education/communityoutreach/lifeprogram/>

The Coastal Carolina University LIFE Program is a four-year, tuition-based, post-secondary education and transition program for young adults who have a mild to moderate intellectual and/or developmental disability. LIFE Program staff, mentors, and tutors facilitate and support each student's full integration within the campus community both academically and socially. The LIFE Program prepares students with the life skills they need to complete their post-secondary education, gain and maintain meaningful employment, and live independent and productive adult lives by utilizing natural campus and peer supports, for academic and social mentoring/tutoring.

Transition Alliance South Carolina (TASC)

<https://transitionalliancesc.org/>

Working together to increase successful post-secondary transition outcomes for youth with disabilities through active interagency collaboration.

DIAGNOSTIC PROVIDERS OF EVALUATIONS & ASSESSMENTS

Carolina Pediatric Counseling and Educational Services

Florence, SC

Dr. Misty Goodwin

<http://carolina-pediatrics.com/Services.html>

Seasons Psychology Associates

Florence, SC

Dr. Pritchard-Boone

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Seasons-Psychology-Associates/164066670288177> -

Wellspring

Florence, SC

<http://www.wellspringflorence.com/> -

University of SC School of Medicine

Dept. of Child Development and Behavioral Pediatrics

<http://pediatrics.med.sc.edu/patientcare/developmental.pediatrics.asp> -

Medical University of South Carolina

Autism Care Services

<https://musckids.org/our-services/autism> -

LEGAL, ESTATE, LIFE AND FUTURE PLANNING

Meghan Barnes, Attorney

meghan@lawofficeofmeghanbarnes.com

Estate planning, probate, guardianship, and conservatorship issues

121-A Centermarsh Lane, Pawleys Island, SC 29585

843-314-8044

National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making

www.supporteddecisionmaking.org

EVERYONE has the Right to Make Choices: How would you feel if you had no say in where you live? Or where you work? Or who you spend time with? Or what you can buy and spend money on? That's what can happen to older adults and people with disabilities when someone else has the power to make decisions for them, like when they're put in a guardianship. We believe that **everyone** has the Right to Make Choices. Supported Decision-Making is a way people can make their own decisions and stay in charge of their lives, while receiving any help they need to do so.

New York Life Insurance Company

Ulitz Kronemeyer

843-957-0577

1312 PROFESSIONAL DR

SUITE 200

MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577-0911

ukronemeyer@ft.newyorklife.com

Life insurance, supplemental insurance, retirement income, investments, estate planning, wealth management.

ORIGIN SC

<https://originsc.org/conservator/>

What is a conservatorship? A conservatorship is the result of a court proceeding in which a judge appoints a conservator to manage the financial affairs of an individual who is deemed incompetent to manage their own personal finances due to a mental or physical disability. To protect the individual from exploitation and to ensure that their primary needs are met, the conservator works with the courts to develop and manage the assets of the protected individual as efficiently as possible.

Who needs a conservatorship? An individual who needs protection from neglect, financial abuse, and isolation. An individual whose relatives/friends do not have the resources to assist in caring for the individual's financial responsibilities.

How does a conservatorship help? Developing and implementing a financial management plan for the client. Advocating on behalf of the client with creditors to ensure payment of debts. Providing options for pre-need planning of funeral arrangements. If needed, liquidating and/or consolidating assets.

Business Address: 8084 Rivers Ave Suite 100, North Charleston, SC 29406

Mailing Address: PO Box 118006, Charleston, SC 29423-8006

Hours: Monday – Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Evenings & weekends by appointment

Phone: 843.628.3000, Fax: 843.574.8598

SHIP - SC Health Insurance Program

<https://aging.sc.gov/programs-initiatives/medicare-and-medicare-fraud>

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) provides free, in depth, one-on-one insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, friends, and caregivers. SHIP is a grant-funded project of the federal U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL). SHIP Counselors answer questions about Medicare and assist people in obtaining coverage through options that include the Original Medicare program, Medicare Advantage (Part C) Plans, Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) Plans, and programs designed to help people with limited incomes pay for their health care, such as Medicaid, the Medicare Savings Program, and the Low-Income Subsidy. SHIP Counselors also help people compare Medicare Supplemental (Medigap) insurance policies and explain how these and other supplemental insurance options -- such as insurance plans for retirees -- work with Medicare.

SC legal Services - Mark Fessler

www.sclegal.org

888-346-5592

Provides free legal assistance in a wide variety of civil (non-criminal) legal matters to eligible low-income residents of South Carolina. SCLS is a non-profit corporation, funded by grants from the federally funded Legal Services Corporation, the South Carolina Bar Foundation, local United Ways, state court filing fees, and other federal, state, and local funding. Applications for legal assistance should be made through our statewide Intake Office. Click Apply for Service to request assistance. Assistance can also be sought through the local offices. SCLS also has a library of publications providing information for common legal issues and recommendations for action. Click on Publications to review a listing of available topics and materials or to request one of the publications to be sent to you. Our Support Services provides a list of local organizations that can help you with various non-legal needs.