



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

The Waiting List- What is it?

In very simple terms “The Waiting List” is for funding for services for people with disabilities, including – but not limited to – children and adults with Down syndrome. The kinds of services include speech therapy, occupational therapy, case management, respite care, supported employment, nursing care and other “individualized” services. The types and frequency of services available are based on an assessment of each person’s needs. These services are provided at no cost to the family – that’s the good news. The bad news - there is a waiting list of 35,000 people with disabilities in Texas – some families have been waiting for ten years!

“The Waiting List,” also called “Interest Lists,” is really two lists because there are two different programs that provide almost identical services. Both are referred to as *Medicaid waiver programs* because some of the funding is from federal Medicaid money. An adult or child with Down syndrome is eligible (from the date of birth) for **both** programs, but you have to call and go through the process to get your child’s name on each list. The programs are:

Home and Community-based Services (HCS) – contact:

Dallas County – Dallas MetroCare at 214-333-7000

Denton County – Denton County MHMR at 940-565-5244

Collin County – LifePath Systems at 972-727-9133

Ellis, Johnson and Navarro Counties – 903-872-2491, ext. 102

Community Living Assistance Support Services (CLASS) – contact:

Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services at 1-877-438-5658

(also ask if your child is eligible for the Medically Dependent Children’s Fund)

When you call, just tell the person who answers that you have a child with Down syndrome and you want to get his/her name on “The Waiting List.” You will be asked some basic information and another person will call you back to explain what documentation will be required – in most cases a doctor’s statement confirming a diagnosis of Down syndrome is all that is required. At the end of the process, you will receive a letter confirming the date your child’s name was added to the list.

**** It is important to verify your child’s place on the list annually. Some families report being inadvertently dropped from the list.**