



DOWN SYNDROME GUILD
OF DALLAS

Funding Options for Services

Frequently, DSG members call our office to ask how to get services for their child with Down syndrome. Seems like a simple question. However, the answer is very complicated. It depends on the child's age, the family's income level, what kind of services, public or private service providers, availability of funding for existing programs, waiting lists for some programs, rules and regulations that constantly change, etc. Below is a summary of the options:

1. Private health insurance and Medicaid may provide funding for therapies for children and adults with Down syndrome.
2. Some agencies offer "fee for service" therapies and support services for adults with Down syndrome.
3. Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) is the state agency which provides funding through the local Mental Retardation Authority (MRA)- see following page
4. Medicaid-waiver programs are funded by a combination of federal and state dollars. Make sure your child is on the "interest list" (or "waiting list") for any and all Medicaid-waiver programs for which he/she is eligible.
5. Some adults with Down syndrome may be eligible for food stamps and Section 8 vouchers from the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

The following pages provide a brief overview of these various funding options.