



Projected Service Needs List

Projected Service Needs List (PSNL)

Special education up to the age of 21 or until a high school diploma is awarded is an entitled service. **After graduation or turning 21, services are no longer guaranteed or mandated.** There is no guarantee that long term funding for adult services will be available when your son/daughter turns 21, however there are some things that you can do to help advocate for services.

How does the Projected Service Needs List work?

- Each area agency submits an annual operating budget that supports existing services primarily based on funds allocated by the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS). BDS receives allocated funds from the state legislators and the Governor.
- Each person requesting long term supports through Gateways, is placed on a Projected Service Needs List. The Projected Service Needs List is sent to BDS making them aware of how many people statewide are potentially in need of services. The individual will be asked to have a Supports Intensity Scale Assessment prior to the date they need long term funding to assess support needs.
- Annually, BDS uses this data to determine funding allocations to the area agencies based on the funding they have available in their budget, which is approved by the Department of Health and Human Services. They review all the requests from each area agency and divide the available funds amongst all 10 area agencies based on how much service they projected that they needed and other factor determined by BDS.
- Once the area agencies have the allocation from BDS, they use criteria from BDS to prioritize all the requests to allocate funding.

What is the Waitlist?

- Each person who requests funding for long term supports through the PSNL states what day the services would start on. For transition aged individuals it is typically their 21st birthday. Start dates for service must be after or on the individual's 21st birthdate. If the person requesting services does not have funding allocated to them on the day they requested it to start, they are officially on the waitlist, waiting for funding.

What can you do to advocate?

- Advocate staying in school until you have completed a transition plan that prepares your son/daughter for adult life and learn about different resources available in your area.
- Contact your Family Support Service Coordinator (FSSC) or Customer Services Agent (CSA) on a monthly basis to ensure they are aware of your son/daughters future service needs, including graduation plans.
- Include your FSSC or CSA as an active part of the school planning team.
- Provide your FSSC or CSA with all current evaluations (within three years)
- Verify that your son/daughters name is on the Projected Service Needs list no later than age 19.
- Contact your local representative to the legislature.
 1. Inform the representative of anticipated needs and what will happen if funding is not available to provide services for your son/daughter.
 2. Ask your legislator to support funding the Projected Service Needs list.
 3. Attend hearings whenever possible.

Ask your FSSC or CSA to add your name to the Legislative News Letter which will inform you of any legislative action steps, i.e., testifying at hearings or meetings around Projected Service Needs List issues.

If you are unsure of who your legislator is you can contact your FSSC or CSA or check online at: <http://www.gencourt.state.ne.us/ie/whosmyleg/>.