



Respite for Children Fact Sheet

What is the Respite Program?

Respite Services allow parents or guardians caring for a child with disabilities, to have time off for themselves. To be eligible for the Respite for Children Program, a child must need an institutional level of care that can best be described as the type of care typically provided in a hospital, nursing home or Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR). Other factors used in determining eligibility include, but are not limited to: the severity of the child's condition, the intensity of services required, the child's functional daily living skills, safety and safety awareness, and the needs of the family. Parents/ guardians are required to find their own respite worker, but assistance is available from certified Respite agencies and a free online resource www.rewardingwork.org. Up to 100 hours of Respite per year are available per child.

Who is eligible?

A child must meet the following requirements to be eligible for respite care. He or she must –

- Medicaid eligible,
- Be under age 21,
- Meet income and resource requirements (child's income & assets only),
- Live at home, and
- Require an institutional level of care at home that is typically provided in a hospital, nursing facility or an Intermediate Care Facility for Persons with Mental Retardation (ICF-MR).

How do I apply for Respite Services?

Please access the EOHHS website, contact your health plan, Cedar Family Center or a Respite provider agency for an application packet. Parents/guardian will be asked to:

- Complete a Parent/ Guardian questionnaire;
- Provide documentation from your child's physician or other providers that address the child's condition, functioning and treatment needs;
- Provide documentation of supportive and treatment services, such as special education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech/language therapy;
- Provide other information, as requested.

For more information, please refer to the *RI Medicaid Programs for Children with Special Health Care Needs* guide for a list of participating Respite providers.

<http://www.eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/ConsumerInformation/Healthcare/PeoplewithSpecialNeedsandDisabilities/Children.aspx>