

Quick Reference: the Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities (EPD) Waiver Program



When given a choice, many seniors and adults with disabilities prefer to stay in familiar surroundings, which is often their own home. The Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities (EPD) Waiver Program is here to make this possible. This program provides services to help qualified older adults and persons with disabilities live in their own home or another place in the community instead of living in a nursing home. If you think you may meet the criteria described below (or you have already had an assessment completed and know you are eligible for the EPD Waiver), contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) at the number below.

To be eligible for the EPD Waiver, you must

- Be a resident of the District of Columbia
- Be a U.S. citizen or hold legal immigration status
- Be eligible to receive DC Medicaid, with an income of less than 300% SSI or be eligible for Spend Down
- Have no more than \$4,000 in countable assets
- Require assistance with activities of daily living
- Meet the “level of care” established for the Waiver

The EPD Waiver offers a combination of in-home or community-based support services, which include:

- **Case management:** assistance with obtaining or coordinating health care services
- **Personal care aide services (PCA):** assistance with activities of daily living, such as dressing, eating, toileting, etc.
- **Personal Emergency Response System (PERS):** an electronic system that allows people to call for assistance when needed
- **Adult day health programs:** non-residential services and supports promoting community inclusion and community-based care
- **Respite care:** assistance with daily needs when a primary caregiver is absent or unavailable
- **Assisted living:** a licensed residence with services and supports to allow participants to live independently
- **Environmental accessibility adaptations:** physical modifications to a home to ensure the safety and welfare of a resident
- **Participant-directed services:** more choice and flexibility over the services you receive, including personal care aide services

Is the EPD Waiver right for you?

The EPD Waiver program is a choice program. You have the right to choose whether or not to participate in home and community-based services. The Waiver may be a good fit for you if you feel services offered in the Waiver will meet your needs.

How long will it take to enroll?

If you have already had an in-home assessment, processing of your Waiver application by the Economic Security Administration (ESA) may take up to 45 days.

Have you already completed an in-home visit and an assessment? Look at the assessment score in the letter you received after your assessment.

If your total assessment score listed is 9 or higher, you meet the functional eligibility criteria for the Waiver and the nursing facility “level of care” criteria. This means you can access services and supports in a nursing facility, through the Waiver, or you may access similar services (including PCA and adult day health programs) without enrolling in the Waiver.



For more information or to find out how you can enroll in the EPD Waiver program, contact the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) at 202-724-5626 or via email at Ask.ADRC@dc.gov.

You may also call the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) Long Term Care Administration at 202-442-5988.