

Wraparound Services for Students with Disabilities

What Are Wraparound Services?

Wraparound Services are services and supports for children with complex behavior problems who are at risk of or receiving residential care. These services are different for every child who gets them and meant to help children and their families. Wraparound includes diagnostic and treatment services, personal support services and other supports necessary for a child to remain in or return to a home and community-based settings.

What is a Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT)?

A plan for wraparound services is created in a team environment. This is known as a Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT). The child, parent or legal guardian, healthcare providers, service agencies, schools and anyone the child and/or family identify can be a part of the team. It is important to make connections across different systems to build an effective plan.

Some agencies who may be part of the team include:

- The local Community Services Board (CSB);
- A representative from the juvenile court services unit;
- The local Department of Social Services; and
- The local school division.

What Factors Should the Team Consider?

The Children's Services Act sets forth ways for achieving the safety, stability and well-being of children and their families. Family involvement is a critical part of the process. To make sure children get what they need from wraparound services, it's important the team recognize:

- Every family has its own unique strengths;
- Families are the experts when it comes to their situations;
- Outcomes improve when families are included in the process; and
- A team often makes better decisions than an individual on their own.

What Are Some Examples of Wraparound Services?

Every child's needs are different. Wraparound services may include placement in a group home, foster care or residential setting. Services may include treatments or therapies needed for a child to return home. If a child can be served in the home, services may include crisis intervention and stabilization, outpatient therapy, substance abuse services and mental health support.

Who is Eligible for FAPT Funding?

Need is determined on four factors. A child must meet all factors to receive funding.

- **The child meets the definition of a “child in need of services.”** To be found a child in need of services (CHINS) a child’s behavior, conduct or condition must threaten their well-being and physical safety or that of another person. FAPT decides if a child needs services because of the effects of their disabilities. A court can also make this decision.
- **The child has emotional or behavioral problems that:**
 - are critical in nature, significantly disabling across community settings and requires services beyond what would normally be provided; or
 - require services beyond what would normally be provided because the child is in or at risk of placement in residential care and needs services coordinated by multiple agencies.
- **The child requires services:**
 - to resolve immediate crisis that threaten the safety and well-being of the child or another person;
 - to preserve and/or strengthen the family while ensuring safety; and
 - to prevent placement outside of the home or placement with the agreement that the parents retain custody.
- **The goal of the family is to maintain the child at home or return the child home.**

Wraparound funds can be used to fund non-residential services in the community for students with disabilities. The student must have needs that go beyond the school setting. These needs must threaten his or her ability to safely remain in the home or school setting.

Why Are Wraparound Services Important?

Wraparound Services are one of the most effective interventions for children with emotional, behavioral and mental health needs. Access to these services has reduced hospitalizations, detentions and suicidal behavior. It also increases continued mental health improvements, school attendance and achievements.

How Are Wraparound Services Funded?

Local communities have their own teams working to place students with disabilities in the least restrictive environments. For more information about the Children’s Services Act, visit www.csa.virginia.gov/ or contact your local Department of Social Services.

Wraparound services can also be covered under the Early and Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program. EPSDT is a Medicaid program for children between birth and age 21 that covers medically necessary healthcare, treatments and services.

How Can dLCV Help?

dLCV can provide information, technical assistance and, in some cases, legal representation. You can contact our Office by calling (800) 552-3962.

dLCV publications are available in alternate format, upon request.