



TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD)

What should I know about the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD)?

DIDD is the state agency responsible for administering services and support to Tennesseans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The goal is to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to control their lives as much as possible in the least restrictive environment. The department partners with individuals and their families in planning, developing, and monitoring services, along with the way they are provided. DIDD oversees the ECF CHOICES waiver program.

In order to be eligible for any DIDD program (with the exception of Family Support), there must be documentation or evidence of a diagnosis of an intellectual disability with an IQ score of 70 or below. Additionally, the onset of the intellectual ability must have occurred prior to the age of 18. DIDD provides services to individuals who are no longer enrolled in school and are 22 years of age or older.

Common Terms / Acronyms

DIDD: Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

ECF CHOICES: A waiver program administered by DIDD. This program helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities become employed and live as independently as possible.

Enabling Technology Program: the use of devices and assistive technology to support people with disabilities to live as independently as possible.

Employment First: a movement and concept centered around employment being the first and preferred option for individuals with disabilities receiving assistance from publicly funded systems.

What should students know about the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD)?

- If you have an intellectual or developmental disability, DIDD can provide services after you leave high school. Some of these services include:
 - o Technology to help you live independently, such as sensors, mobile apps, and remote support systems
 - o Help for family members who might be taking care of you, such as day care services, transportation, home modifications, nursing, and counseling
 - o Customized wheelchair seating



Where do I find more information about the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?

- Visit the TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities [website](#)
- Download the [2019 Expect Employment report](#)
- Watch the Employment First Stories [videos](#)
- Watch the Enabling Tech: Kenny's Work Transportation [video](#)

How can I partner with DIDD on Pre-ETS?

- Watch a few of the enabling technology [videos](#) in class and discuss how various technologies help Tennesseans with disabilities to live their best life. Share information with students about the Enabling Technology program.
- Invite a DIDD representative to participate in transition fair

How do I contact the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities?

Primary Office
UBS Tower, 8th Floor
315 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 532-6530

The DIDD Abuse Hotline for reporting allegations is **(888) 633-1313**

If you have a question about receiving DIDD services, contact the toll-free number for your region.

West TN: **(866) 372-5709**

Middle TN: **(800) 654-4839**

East TN: **(888) 531-9876**

See additional contact [information](#) for Regional Offices in West, Middle, and East