

Personal Care Services

One does not need to go through the DDA application and eligibility process to receive Personal Care services. Personal Care is administered through DDA for everyone under age 18 (and by Home and Community Services for non-DDA clients over age 18). You do not need to apply and be determined eligible for DDA to get Personal Care. Basically, if a child has Medicaid and needs assistance with activities of daily living beyond what their same-age peers require, they can qualify for personal care, even if they are not a DDA client. This is called the Specialized Case Load at DDA.

Because Personal Care is an entitlement, the process is MUCH faster with fewer hoops to jump through. Often, families in urgent need of support can begin with personal care while they wait for their DDA application to be processed. Personal Care can also be utilized by children who would not be considered eligible for DDA, as long as they have Medicaid and need help with ADLs. For example, a child with muscular dystrophy isn't likely going to be eligible for DDA, but, they might be eligible for Personal Care. Someone who acquires a traumatic brain injury after age 18 won't be eligible for DDA but could be eligible for Personal Care.

This goes for any child, regardless of immigration status. The only difference with immigration status is that once a person turns 18 they no longer qualify for Apple Health/Medicaid if they are undocumented.

For children who are undocumented, they can receive personal care but not waiver services. They could skip the DDA application all together, but we recommend they apply to DDA should any non-waiver services be available, or should they become waiver-eligible in the future. A social security number is NOT required to apply; it's okay to leave that question blank on the application. Also, often parents are undocumented but the children are US citizens. Services like Medicaid; DDA waivers; SSI; etc. depend on the child's citizenship status, not their parents'. Often, parents think that they cannot apply for services even when their child is a citizen. This is untrue. Since the services are for the child, the parents' immigration status does not matter. DSHS/DDA shares their records with ICE.

Lastly, undocumented parents will often express concern that if they receive any kind of public benefits, welfare, or state-funded services it will impact their chances of becoming citizens in the future. This is untrue. Utilizing public benefits like this will not limit their citizenship options in the future.