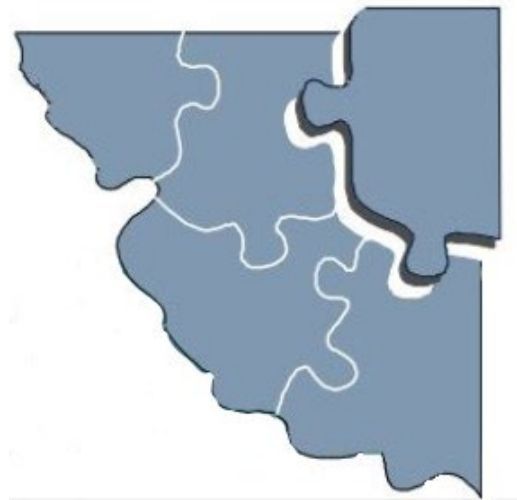


PLATTE COUNTY CONNECTIONS



MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of Platte County Connections is to secure resources that support Platte County Board of Services for the Developmentally Disabled in maximizing the quality of life of Platte County residents who have a developmental disability and their families.

History of Platte County Connections

Platte County Connections (PCC) is a not-for-profit agency; started in 1998 to provide services not covered through Medicaid or SB40 funding. In 2008, PCC began helping families by providing funding for respite care services. In July of 2012, the Catayoc family bequeathed \$194,000 to Platte County Connections. This generous gift allowed PCC to establish an endowment program that serves as a last resort fund, providing funding for the most critical and emergent needs of Platte County citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. In September of 2023, the name of the endowment program was changed to The Catayoc Family Trust of Platte County Connections to honor the legacy of the Catayoc family and their generosity.

Eligibility

All persons must be eligible pursuant to 205.968-205.972 RSMo and Agency policy. To be deemed eligible for Platte County Connections funding, individuals must have:

Proof of Disability

Platte County Connections accepts the following as proof of a developmental disability:

- ❖ **DMH/DD I.D. NUMBER** - Individuals determined eligible for Department of Mental Health (DMH) services and have a DMH/DD I.D. number can access services; after the age of five. If the individual is determined eligible by DMH, they remain eligible for services.
- ❖ **DESE CERTIFICATION** - Sheltered Workshops may use the DESE Certification, with reference to a developmental disability diagnosis.
- ❖ **FIRST STEPS ELIGIBILITY LETTER** - Children ages 0 to their 3rd birthday, enrolled in Missouri First Steps, must submit the child's Missouri First Steps Eligibility Letter from the Department of Mental Health.
- ❖ **OTHER** - Platte County Connections may also serve individuals who are not deemed eligible by the Department of Mental Health. They must provide a signed statement from a physician, nurse practitioner, psychologist or LCSW as proof of a developmental disability. Proof of disability is only required once, upon enrollment. For children under the age of 17, agencies may use a current Individual Education Plan (IEP) which states one of the following diagnoses: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Epilepsy, Intellectual Disability or otherwise meeting the definition of a developmental disability. Re-evaluation documentation is required when the triennial evaluation expires.

Platte County Connections staff must confirm and verify clinical information submitted for eligibility determination. Eligibility must be documented by designated Platte County Connections staff prior to a service being provided. Please note that anyone with a primary diagnosis of a mental illness is not eligible for Platte County Connections funding.

Definition

A developmental disability is a disability which:

1. Is attributable to:
 - a. An intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, epilepsy or autism, or a learning disability related to a brain dysfunction; or
 - b. Any other mental or physical disability or combination of mental or physical disabilities that involve brain damage or dysfunction (e.g. - intra-cranial neoplasm, degenerative brain disease or brain damage associated with accidents) and
2. Is manifested before the person attains the age of twenty-two.
3. Is likely to continue indefinitely.
4. Results in substantial functional limitations in two or more of the following areas of major life activities:
 - a. **Self-care** - Daily activities which enable a person to meet basic needs for food, hygiene, and appearance. Demonstrated ongoing ability to appropriately perform basic activities of daily living with little or no assistance or supervision.
 - b. **Receptive and expressive language development** – Communication involving verbal and nonverbal behavior enabling a person to understand and express ideas and information to the general public with or without assistive devices. Demonstrated ability to understand ordinary spoken and written communications and to speak and write well enough to communicate thoughts accurately and appropriately on an ongoing basis.
 - c. **Learning** – General cognitive competence and ability to acquire new behaviors, perceptions, and information and to apply experiences in new situations. Demonstrated ongoing ability to acquire information, process experiences, and adequately perform ordinary, cognitive, age-appropriate tasks on an ongoing basis.
 - d. **Self-direction** – Management and control over one’s social and personal life. Ability to make decisions and perform activities affecting and protecting personal interests. Demonstrated ongoing ability to take charge of life activities through an appropriate level of self-responsibility and assertiveness.
 - e. **Capacity for independent living or economic self-sufficiency** – Age-appropriate ability to live without extraordinary assistance from other persons or devices, especially to maintain normal societal roles. Ability to maintain adequate employment and financial support. Ability to earn a living wage. Ability to function on an ongoing basis as an adult, independent of extraordinary emotional, physical, medical, or financial support systems.
 - f. **Mobility** – Motor development and ability to use fine and gross motor skills;

demonstrated ability to move about while performing purposeful activities with or without assistive devices and with little or no assistance or supervision.

5. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special interdisciplinary, or generic care, habilitation or other services which may be of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

630.005 RSMo

Funding Restrictions/Requirements

Agencies (e.g. - Service Coordinators) are encouraged to access and utilize all other funding sources (Medicaid, private insurance, EMAP Funding, etc.) when available, prior to expenditure of Platte County Connections funds. It is the responsibility of the agency to document that a service is not reimbursable under other sources of funding.

Residency Requirements

Platte County Connections funding is restricted to the residents of Platte County.

In-Home Respite

Definition

In-Home Respite Services are provided to individuals unable to care for themselves on a short-term basis (e.g., a few hours, day, or weekend) because of the absence or need for relief of the primary caregiver. It is for the purpose of supporting the individual in their natural place of residence and includes general supervision and protective oversight. This may also include bathing, toileting, transfer and ambulation, grooming, dressing, meal preparation, and feeding.

Platte County Connections recognizes that the availability of this financial support may contribute to the prevention of unnecessary and/or premature out-of-home placement. This may be authorized and coordinated with other in-home care services, such as nursing or personal care, but may not be delivered simultaneously with those services.

When In-Home Respite Services are provided to minor children living with their parents or guardians, the services shall not replace the cost and provision of support ordinarily provided by parents or guardians of children without disabilities, nor shall it replace educationally related services and supports that are the responsibility of local education authorities.

During the In-Home Respite time, the primary caregiver/guardian should take a break from the day-to-day care of the person with the disability. It is not designed for substitution for childcare, school, or day habilitation programs.

Eligibility

An individual is eligible for In-Home Respite Services when:

- a. They reside in Platte County in their natural home and are under the direct supervision of a primary caregiver (parent, stepparent, family member) or guardian who lives in the same home.
- b. They have a documented developmental disability.
- c. They provide justification of need.
- d. They are an adult who is unable to safely stay home alone; a child aged 12 or older who is unable to meet their own health and safety needs; or is a child under the age of 12 who has extraordinary support needs such as serious medical diagnoses or requires behavioral supports. Documentation of extraordinary needs is required to receive funding for children under the age of 12.

Respite Worker Qualifications

- ❖ Must be 18 years or older.
- ❖ Must not be a family member living in the home.
- ❖ Must not be the primary caregiver, parent, or stepparent regardless of where they live.

The person served and their families are responsible for selecting the respite staff, providing training on the specific needs of the individual and maintaining supervision of the respite staff. This may include CPR, First Aid, medication administration, and/or behavioral intervention techniques. All fees related to training are the responsibility of the primary caregiver or respite staff. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian or person served to insure his/her provider(s) maintains any training and/or certifications he/she has determined necessary for the care of the person served.

Application Process

The family/caregiver may request an application and release of liability for respite funding directly from Platte County Connections (PCC@pcbsdd.org or 816-743-7042) or access the documents through the Platte County Connections website (plattecountyconnections.org). When the application and release of liability are received by Platte County Connections, it will be reviewed for consideration. Upon approval, the primary caregiver/guardian will receive a respite voucher, identifying the amount authorized. Services will not be reimbursed prior to authorization date.

Services may occur based upon the frequency the primary caregiver/guardian deems necessary. However, any services not utilized by the end of the plan year (if applicable) will not accrue to the next plan year. The maximum annual assistance for each eligible person is \$500. If the need and justification is present, an exception may be requested.

This is not an ongoing service. Application renewals will need to be completed yearly.

Payment for Services

Payment for services will be processed upon receipt of a properly completed respite voucher received from the primary caregiver/guardian. The primary caregiver or guardian is responsible for scheduling within authorized service limits.

It is the responsibility of the primary caregiver/guardian to provide to PCC a copy of the photo ID for each person providing the service, in addition to their signature. These must be on record to receive reimbursement. It is the responsibility of the caregiver/guardian to ensure that required documentation is current and correct.

The vouchers must identify date, rate of pay, hours worked and total paid to the respite provider. It will also require the respite provider's signature on the voucher, confirming they have provided the service. The caregiver/guardian will need to sign the voucher verifying that all the information provided is true and accurate.

The hourly payment to the respite provider should be negotiated between the primary caregiver/guardian and the respite provider. The minimum hourly payment is the state minimum wage, which at the present time is **\$12.00** (as of 1/1/2024).

Completed vouchers can be faxed to 816-891-0937 or scanned and emailed to PCC@pcbsdd.org or mailed to:

Platte County Connections
7900 NW 106th Street
Kansas City, MO 64153

The voucher reimbursement will be mailed to the primary caregivers/guardians to the address on the voucher. Checks may not be picked up at the office. Platte County Connections will maintain records for each program recipient, including documentation of services provided, picture ID, and signatures. A new respite voucher indicating the amount remaining will be sent with each check for reimbursement. When the amount authorized has been utilized, no additional vouchers will be sent. Requests for reimbursement for more than the amount authorized will not be paid.

Catayoc Family Trust of Platte County Connections

The PCC Board of Directors approved the use of the Catayoc Family Trust to assist with the emergent needs of Platte County citizens who have an intellectual or developmental disability. Funding is limited. The funds for a particular year may exhaust themselves and will not be replenished until the new fiscal year. For the most part, PCC will only provide partial payment.

Included is a list of possible services that would be covered. It is split into two different categories: life enhancement and emergent needs.

All requests must include financial documentation (e.g. - for a camp, the application for camp and funding costs must be included). The application must also include how the camp will meet

the specific developmental or intellectual disability of the applicant. For some funding areas, a physician's order, prescription, letter of medical necessity, or evaluation/assessment and two quotes are required. If the item requested can be funded by an alternative funding source, PCC will make that determination when the application is being considered.

Funder of Last Resort

The Catayoc Family Trust is always the funder of last resort. All funding requests require submitted documentation of two other funding sources that were requested and denied. Please note the lifetime/yearly maximums for each category.

Life Enhancement Opportunities

Service Type	Description	Cost
1.1 Independent Living start up: reimbursement provides individuals living in the community with furnishings, household items, moving expenses, rent, utility deposits, renters' insurance initial cost, and housekeeping supplies.	One-time expense – moving from the natural home to independent living. Needs written documentation of amount owed and documentation to justify the need. Payments will be made directly to entity owed.	Up to \$1,000 for lifetime
1.2 Socialization services support individuals to develop and/or maintain relationships and connections to their community.	Special Olympics, activities, events etc. Payment will be made directly to the entity owed.	\$150 limit per year
1.3 Transportation	Includes transportation provided by Uber, Lyft, etc. Must be approved before services are provided and will be reimbursed once receipts are received. Must document that all other transportation sources have been exhausted. Other permanent transportation plans need to be put into place.	Up to \$100 per year.
1.4 Camp Fees	Payment towards camp costs. Must provide documentation of camp fees, description of camp, and how the camp relates to the disability. Payments will be made directly to the entity owed.	Up to \$500 per year, per individual.
1.5 Services support individuals and families through education, training, parent-to-parent connections and linking to resources. This includes sibling support and parent/caregiver training.	Conferences Fees, webinars, in-services. Does not include lodging and meals. Must include conference flyer or information sheet and registration form. Payments will be made directly to the entity owed.	Limited to \$500

1.6 Scholarships, tutoring	Scholarships can only be funded for the individual with developmental disabilities. Must include justification and bill/invoice for services to be rendered. Payments will be made directly to the entity owed.	Limited to \$500 per year.
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Emergent Needs

Service Type	Description	Cost
2.1 Temporary Emergency housing	Can be used to pay for temporary housing/shelter. Need documentation of crisis, justifying need, costs. Payments are made directly to the entity owed.	Up to lifetime of \$1000
2.2 Short-term funding for an individual facing an emergency which jeopardizes their health and safety and having their basic needs met. Examples include utility bills, rent and mortgage payments, grocery items and medications. Cannot be applied to fund car repairs, internet bills and/or tax bills.	One-time funding. Need written documentation of amount owed and to justify the need. Payments are made directly to the entity owed.	Up to lifetime of \$1000
2.3 Professional Services Temporary emergency funding for healthcare services not covered through Medicare/Medicaid.	Must submit actual invoices. Must be for the individual with a developmental disability. Payment will be made directly to the entity owed.	Up to \$200 per year.
2.4 Specialized Medical Equipment, Adaptive Equipment & Assistive Technology services support individuals and families with accessing equipment, technology and/or home modifications that increases an individual's ability to navigate home and community settings safely and independently.	To include hearing aids, glasses, home modifications, communication devices, etc. Needs a physician's order, prescription, letter of medical necessity or evaluation assessment, and two quotes.	Up to lifetime of \$1000
2.5 One-time funding for emergent needs not covered elsewhere.	Payment will be made directly to the entity owed.	Determined on a case-by-case basis