

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

A continuing commitment to families within our own homes and communities.

Family Support Services (FSS) is a grant program intended to help the family or guardian care for their eligible family member at home and enhance their quality of life. FSS provides financial assistance to families and individuals through full or partial reimbursement of approved expenditures based on a sliding fee scale and up to an annual allocation cap.

Eligible individuals are those determined through the County Board eligibility process to have a developmental disability and live in Defiance County.

There are two primary goals for the program:

1. Provide services so that the family may keep a family member with a disability at home, preventing or reducing the need for institutionalization.
2. Assist individuals with disabilities in becoming more independent and self-sufficient.

Who is eligible?

If you have a family member with a developmental disability (DD) living at home, he or she may be able to receive Family Support Services. The family member with disabilities must be **ELIGIBLE** for county DD services, even if he or she is not receiving county board assistance.

What are the services?

- Respite care, both in the home and out-of-home services.
- Training, counseling, and education for family members.
- Assistant with special diets.
- Purchase or lease of adaptive equipment.
- Home Modifications
- Other

How are services reimbursed?

The Defiance County Family Support Services program provides financial reimbursement, based on a sliding fee scale, to eligible families.

Sliding Fee Scale	
**Taxable Income	
Household Income	Family Pays
\$27,258 or less	0%
\$27,259 to \$37,759	10%
\$37,760 to \$48,260	30%
\$48,261 to \$62,261	50%
\$62,262 to \$79,762	75%
\$79,763 and over	100%

What is respite care?

Respite care refers to temporary care of the family member with a disability by a trained relief care provider to meet the planned and emergency needs of the family. Examples including vacations, medical emergencies, hospital stays, or other needs identified by the family.

Respite care services may be provided in-home or out-of-home. For in-home care, the provider comes directly to the home to provide the services for the period of time needed. For out-of-home care, the family member with a disability can be taken to the home of an approved provider.

To find out if you are eligible for Family Support Services, or for more information on other areas/examples of possible assistance, please contact the Family Support Services Coordinator at (419) 782-6621.

