



# Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD)

Individual: a person enrolled in the DBMD Program

Applicant: A person seeking services in the DBMD Program

## What is DBMD?

DBMD provides home and community-based services to individuals with deafblindness and another disability as a cost-effective alternative to an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or related conditions (ICF/IID).

The DBMD Program focuses on increasing opportunities for individuals to communicate and interact with their environment. Services provided are based on the unique needs of the individual and on an individual plan of care (IPC) developed by the service planning team, which includes (at a minimum) the individual, the case manager and a representative of the program provider.

## Who can get DBMD?

DBMD services are available to Texas residents not living in an institutional setting who:

- Have a diagnosis of deafblindness (or a related condition that will result in deafblindness) as well as an additional diagnosis
- Have a related condition that was displayed before age 22
- Meet the level-of-care criteria for placement in an ICF/IID
- Do not exceed specified income and resource limits
- Are not enrolled in any other Medicaid waiver program
- Demonstrate need for one or more services on a monthly basis

Some causes of deafblindness are Usher syndrome, CHARGE syndrome, congenital rubella syndrome, preterm birth or birth complications, Cornelia de Lange syndrome, and Stickler syndrome. The additional diagnosis may be due to a

condition such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida, epilepsy, head injuries or any of the approved diagnoses for related conditions.

Individuals must also exhibit substantial functional limitation in at least three of the following areas of major life activities:

- Learning
- Mobility
- Self-care
- Language
- Self-direction (age 10 and over)
- Independent Living (age 10 and over)

Individuals must be eligible for or be receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid. Financial eligibility is determined by the Social Security Administration or by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) using SSI-related criteria.

Note: DBMD services may not be available right away. The applicant's name may be placed on an interest list and then contacted when services become available.

## **What services can DBMD provide?**

Services are determined based on the individual's specific needs and how the needs relate to the individual's diagnosis. Services must be cost effective and not available through another program or resource. These needs may include:

- Adaptive aids and medical supplies
- Assisted living (licensed up to six beds)
- Audiology
- Behavior support services
- Case management
- Chore services
- Dental services and sedation
- Dietary services
- Employment assistance
- Intervener
- Minor home modifications
- Nursing services
- Occupational therapy
- Orientation and mobility
- Physical therapy
- Community First Choice (CFC) Personal Assistance Services/habilitation (PAS/HAB)
- Transportation-residential habilitation

- Respite care (in-home and out-of-home)
- Speech, hearing and language therapy
- Supported employment
- Transition assistance service

The DBMD provider can also provide personal assistance services, habilitation, and emergency response services through the Community First Choice (CFC) Program to individuals who live in their own home or family home. Individuals can also receive unlimited prescriptions through the managed care organization providing acute care services.

## **The Consumer Directed Services (CDS) option is available for this program.**

Through CDS, individuals who live in their own home or family home can self-direct certain services and will assume and retain responsibility to:

1. Recruit their service providers.
2. Conduct criminal history checks.
3. Determine the competency of service providers.
4. Hire, train, manage and fire their service providers.

The following services are available through the CDS option:

- Employment assistance
- Financial management services
- Intervener
- Transportation-residential habilitation
- CFC PAS/HAB
- Respite care (in-home and out-of-home)
- Support consultation
- Supported employment

Individuals who use the CDS option must select a financial management services agency (FMSA) that will provide training, pay the service providers, pay federal and state taxes, and conduct criminal history checks.

## Who provides DBMD services?

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) contracts with public and private entities to provide DBMD services. HHSC regularly monitors these providers to ensure quality of services. When enrolling in the DBMD Program, applicants choose from a list of available providers in their area. The service provider will meet with the individual to determine basic program requirements. If eligibility criteria are not met, the case manager will send a letter explaining how to appeal this decision. Individuals can change providers at any time, even if they move to another area of Texas. Individuals can also choose to hire and train their own service providers under the CDS option.

## Interested in receiving DBMD services?

Those interested in receiving DBMD are placed on an interest list by calling 877-438-5658 and asking for the DBMD Waiver Program. The person will be contacted when funding becomes available. An offer of the DBMD Program depends on individual need and one's date of placement on the interest list. **Current contact information is required for each person on the DBMD interest list, and HHSC must be notified of any changes to address or telephone number.**

For more information please contact [DBMDPolicy@HHSC.state.tx.us](mailto:DBMDPolicy@HHSC.state.tx.us)