



HOW TO APPLY FOR DISABILITY PROGRAMS, SERVICES & RESOURCES

The **South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN)** is the state agency that provides services to children and adults with severe lifelong disabilities. To see if you or your child meet the criteria for services, apply by phone by calling 1-800-289-7012, 5:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CHILDREN SERVICES

If you are concerned your child is not meeting developmental milestones, call to make an appointment with your child's doctor, and be sure to tell the doctor's staff that you're calling because you have concerns about your child's development.

Before the appointment, complete the [CDC's Developmental Milestones Checklist](#) and write down your questions or concerns to take with you to the doctor's appointment.

Ask the doctor if your child needs a developmental evaluation. If so, ask for a referral and call right away. If you have difficulty getting an appointment, let the doctor know.

If your child is under 3, call BabyNet at 866-512-8881 or visit them online at babynet.scdhhs.gov/prebabynet.

If your child is age 3 or older, call the local public elementary school (even if your child does not attend school there) to inquire about an evaluation. You do not need a doctor's referral to have your child evaluated for services. You can say, "I have concerns about my child's development and I would like to have my child evaluated through the school system for preschool special education services." If the person who answers the phone is unfamiliar with preschool special education services, ask to speak with the Special Education Director.

ADULT SERVICES 18+

After you enroll for services through DDSN, apply for [SC Medicaid](#). Be sure to enroll in a [Medicaid Waiver Program](#) and/or get on the waiting list as soon as possible. Call the SC Department of Health and Human Services at 888-549-0820 or visit scdhhs.gov for more information.

Youth who received SSI benefits as children must reapply for adult benefits at age 18. If you (or your child) haven't been receiving SSI, apply now by calling 800-772-1213 between 8:00 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday or visit ssa.gov/applyfordisability.

For information about guardianship, alternatives to guardianship and supported decision making, visit supporteddecisionmaking.org or call them at 800-681-6805.

Investigate [ABLE Accounts](#). It's an investment account available to eligible individuals with disabilities. You can call them at 800-436-1653 or visit palmettoable.com.

Contact [SC Vocational Rehabilitation](#) about employment possibilities. Call them at 800-832-7526 or visit them at scvrd.net.

For more information about resources, information, opportunities for individuals with disabilities in South Carolina, visit our Statewide Directory of Disability Resources at arcsc.org/scdisabilityresourcedirectory.

Resources You May Find Helpful

cdc.gov/ActEarly

msp.scdhhs.gov/babynet

msp.scdhhs.gov/babynet/site-page/refer-child-babynet

ddsn.sc.gov/services/applying-services

able-sc.org/get-support/employment-programs

uscm.med.sc.edu/cdrhome/Roadmap.pdf