

# Service Category Definitions

## ADVOCACY/ INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES

Organizations that provide advocacy work to gain rights and/or resources for people with disabilities and their families with respect to various issues. These same organizations usually provide information and referral services pertaining to advocacy. Information and referral can provide knowledge, facts, and other information regarding numerous issues related to available services and supports for individuals with disabilities.

## ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION

Assessments and evaluations are used for various purposes including: to learn more about the strengths and deficiencies of the individual being tested; to identify specific problem areas and/or needs; to evaluate the individual's performance in relation to others; to evaluate the individual's performance in relation to a set of standards or goals; to provide professionals with feedback on effectiveness of instruction; to evaluate the impact of psychological or neurological abnormalities on learning and behavior; and to predict an individual's aptitudes or future capabilities.

## ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Assistive Technology (AT) is a generic term that includes assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices and the process used in selecting, locating, and using them. AT promotes greater independence for people with disabilities by enabling them to perform tasks that they were formerly unable to accomplish, or had great difficulty accomplishing.

## BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

Behavioral service providers offer behavioral therapy (modifying behaviors by learning new, more appropriate behaviors), and consultation, and training. Some agencies utilize the principles & methods of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), while others employ more general techniques. \*

## CRISIS SERVICES

Crisis care is provided to individuals with disabilities and their families during crucial points and situations, uncertain times, or highly stressful and traumatic events. Most hospitals have crisis/psychiatric intervention units.

## DAY PROGRAMS

Day programs are programs that are attended during the day by people with disabilities that provide opportunities to work, socialize and receive skills training. Day programs can include adult training services, sheltered workshops, medical assistance day programs, and supported employment services.

## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

General assistance refers to financial aid, energy assistance, county or state assistance and other resources that are available to help people with disabilities and their families. Within this category, most services apply to individuals who qualify as low-income or for Medicaid.

\* For more information on professionals who meet minimum qualifications to practice ABA, visit the Behavior Analyst Certification Board website, [www.bacb.com](http://www.bacb.com).

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Health and Wellness services relate to the condition of good physical and mental health. Services provided include therapy services, mental health programs, and other services that promote a person's well-being.

## LEGAL SERVICES

Legal services refer to retaining an attorney for any legal questions or issues that might arise for individuals with disabilities. In addition, legal services, counseling, or information might be free or low-cost to people with disabilities.

## MEDICAL AND DENTAL

Medical services are devoted to all aspects of the administration and delivery of healthcare. Supports include hospitals, medical day programs, medical assistance, intense psychiatric care, nursing, or home care and rehabilitative services.

Dental services provide care to the general public, disability community and/or low-income residents. Supports include free or low-cost dental care, information and/or mobile services.

## POST SECONDARY/VOLUNTEERISM

Post secondary education refers to study beyond the level of secondary education (e.g., high school). This includes colleges and universities, professional schools, adult vocational and GED programs, community colleges, and institutes of technology. At the end of a prescribed course of study, a degree, diploma, or certificate is awarded.

Volunteerism can be defined as contributing one's time or talents for charitable, educational, social, political, or other meaningful purposes, usually in one's community, freely and without regard for compensation. Some volunteering experiences provide support and guidance to the volunteer, whereas some experiences require self-sufficiency.

## RECREATION

Recreational activities are designed for relaxation and/or amusement purposes and might include sports, games, and opportunities to socialize. Some recreational activities have participants with and without disabilities.

## RESIDENTIAL

Residential options are designed as dwelling places and can be used to provide opportunities to maximize independence for people with disabilities and/or offer these individuals help in everyday tasks. Also, residential placements for people with disabilities can be traditional and non-traditional situations.

## RESPIRE/CAREGIVER

Respite care is the temporary residential option, with the intention of providing a break, for the primary caregivers of an individual with special needs. Respite care can be provided in and out of the home.

Care-giving is the act of assisting someone, who is chronically ill or disabled and unable to care for him/herself.

## SUPPORT/SELF-ADVOCACY/PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

Support Services might provide an individual or group support, information and advice on problems relating to some shared characteristic or experience. Support and support services can provide assistance to caregivers and/or the person with the disability.

Self-Advocacy supports can provide ways of obtaining services that maximize independence or services that foster becoming a self-advocate.

Personal Assistance services provide people with disabilities with hands-on personal care and help with activities of daily living in his/her home.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation refers to the traveling of people with disabilities to and from work, school, and/or other destinations. Transportation options can be publicly or privately accessible and might be provided free or low-cost to people with disabilities.

## VOCATIONAL/EMPLOYMENT

Vocational and employment services are designed to advance knowledge and job skills for gainful and/or competitive employment. Vocational and employment services can vary from intense support to support on an as-needed basis.