

DD Abbreviations

If you receive something in writing that contains initials or abbreviations that you cannot identify, feel free to call your Service Coordinator or Support Coordinator for assistance.

For more information on topics discussed in this fact sheet, contact

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Within the service delivery system, there are many abbreviations and initials that are used. Frequently used initials include:

- ALU: An Alternative Living Unit is a house or apartment where usually three people live and receive residential services.
- CSLA: A Community Supported Living Arrangement is a service funded by DDA to support a person in his/her own home.
- DD: DDA uses this definition to determine eligibility for different kinds of services it can provide. In Maryland, a developmental disability is generally defined as a severe and chronic disability, other than a sole diagnosis of mental illness, that occurs before the age of 22, is likely to continue indefinitely, requires continuing and regular support or assistance and requires services that are planned and coordinated for the particular individual.
- DSS: The Department of Social Services has local offices throughout the state of Maryland that provide assistance to eligible individuals and families to access public benefits such as *pharmacy assistance, food stamps, cash assistance, and Medicaid*.
- DORS: The Division of Rehabilitation Services provides evaluation, training, equipment, and other assistance related to employment.
- FSS: Family Support Services are supports funded by DDA to support a family caring for a child who has a disability.

- IDEA: The Individual with Disabilities Education Act is a federal law mandating that state and local education agencies provide a free, appropriate public education and related services for all children with disabilities.
- IFC: Individual Family Care provides a caregiver to meet a person's residential needs. Also known as foster care.
- IP: The Individual Plan is an annual plan developed for each person based on the individual's preferences, which guides the services of agencies funded by the DDA.
- ISS: Individual Support Services are supports funded by DDA to provide support to an individual who has a disability who is living at home or on his/her own; alternatively, this also refers to a "level" of eligibility for DDA services.
- MA: Medical Assistance (also known as Medicaid) is a joint federal and state program that funds medical care to individuals.
- REM: Rare and Expensive Case Management assists individuals who receive Medicaid and also have rare medical conditions with the coordination of their medical care.
- SSDI: Social Security Disability Insurance is an insurance program for former workers who have become disabled, and for disabled adult children of workers who are retired, disabled, or deceased.
- SSI: Supplemental Security Income is a federal program that provides a monthly check for individuals with disabilities to meet basic needs.
- SSA: The Social Security Administration provides Social Security benefit programs, including disability benefits, retirement benefits, Medicare, and Supplemental Security Income benefits.