

SPECIAL SKILLS HOME FOR YOUTH WITH INTELLECTUAL AND/OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (I/DD) - LEVEL 1

Special Skills Home I/DD (SSH Level-1 IDD)

Service Description

Special Skills Homes for youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities are designed for youth up to the age of 21 who are deemed I/DD eligible and who present with low intensity behavioral challenges and/or difficulty in making adjustments in their primary home setting.

These Special Skills homes are located in the community in private single-family homes. Youth are under the supervision of an agency trained staff member. The staff member is not required to be awake overnight while the youth is in the program. Treatment focuses on generalizing and/or maintaining previously acquired behavioral skills, self-help skills, and adaptive skills that increase independence, productivity, enhanced family functioning, and inclusion in the community. Typically, coordinated supports and services include: IHH clinical stabilizations services as needed, adaptive skill training, assistance with activities of daily living, and community integration. adaptive skill training, and assistance with activities of daily living.

This intensity of service helps address challenging behaviors that make it difficult for youth to be maintained in their primary living environment, with the current community supports and services. These include but are not limited to self-stimulating behaviors, disrobing, verbally challenging statements, inappropriate vocalizations, generalized non-compliance, and self-injurious behaviors with superficial injury. The frequency of the challenging behaviors is expected to reduce with increased support and/or environmental modification. The objective is for youth to optimize the behavioral, self-help, socialization and adaptive skills necessary to reside in a community-based family setting. The projected length of stay is anticipated to be between 12 and 18 months.

The ability to conduct Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) for youth receiving these services can range from being fully independent to requiring total care and supervision. This applies to all functional domains ranging from basic functional domains such as self-care and mobility to higher level functional domains such as taking medications and managing finances. Youth who ambulate with assistive devices, have multiple medical needs, and/or require a high level of ADL assistance will be considered on an individual basis by the SSH provider.

All interventions must be directly related to the goals and objectives established in the Care Plan. Parent/guardian/caregiver involvement from the beginning of treatment is extremely important and, unless contraindicated, should occur at a minimum monthly. Assessment of school performance is an essential component of treatment planning, as is involvement with school personnel to monitor the ongoing impact of treatment and to facilitate constructive ways of working with youth. All ISP/treatment plans must be individualized.

Criteria	
Admission Criteria	<p>The youth must meet all of the criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The youth has been determined to be eligible for CSOC Functional DD <i>or</i> Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Services; B. The youth is between the ages of 5-21. Eligibility for services is in place up to and including the day prior to the youth's 21st birthday; C. The youth is exhibiting behavioral difficulties in the home, school, and/or community that are consistent with the Intellectual/Developmental Disability diagnosis and are impacting the ability to be maintained in their primary living environment with community services and supports; D. The Strength and Needs Assessment (SNA) and other relevant information indicate that the youth requires SSH Level- 1 IDD Intensity of Service; E. A completed clinical assessment describing the youth's functional capacity within school, home, and community indicates that the youth's level of functioning can be improved with the utilization of basic skills training, as well as outpatient-intensity individual and family-based therapeutic services; F. The parent/caregiver/guardian (or young adult if 18 and older without a designated legal guardian) must consent to treatment; G. The youth must be a resident of New Jersey; H. For minors who are under 18 years of age, the legal residency of the parent or legal guardian shall determine the residence of the minor.
Exclusion Criteria	<p>Any of the following is sufficient for exclusion from SSH Level-1 IDD consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The parent/caregiver/guardian (or young adult if 18 and older without a designated legal guardian) does not voluntary consent to admission or treatment and/or there is no court order requiring such placement; B. The youth has been determined ineligible for CSOC DD services; C. CSOC Assessment Tools and other relevant clinical information indicate that the youth requires a higher or lower intensity of service; D. The youth has medical conditions or physical health impairments that would prevent participation in behavioral health services;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> E. The youth has a primary diagnosis of substance use disorder, and requires intervention primarily related to substance use, such as detoxification services or withdrawal management services; F. The youth has one or more medical conditions that requires treatment by an on-site Registered Nurse/LPN 24-hours a day, including but not limited to: oral or nasal suctioning, intravenous medications, tube feeding, dialysis monitoring, or catheterization; G. The youth requires absolute physical assistance with transfers and mobility; H. The youth is not a resident of New Jersey. For minors who are under 18 years of age, the legal residency of the parent or legal guardian shall determine the residence of the minor; I. The youth is not in agreement with the Child Family Team's (CFT) plan for out of home treatment. There is evidence of multiple attempts by the CFT to engage the youth in the plan; J. The youth is engaging in a recent pattern of violent behavior that compromises the safety of the youth and others in the out of home program.
Continued Stay Criteria	<p>All the following youth/family/treatment plan criteria must be met for continued treatment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The Strength and Needs Assessment (SNA) indicate that the youth continues to meet criteria for SSH Level -1 IDD Intensity of Service, as evidenced by specific identified treatment needs which are currently being addressed, as documented in the JCR and ISP; B. SSH Level -1 IDD services continue to be required to support the return home with their natural supports; C. The Care Plan is appropriate to the youth's changing condition with realistic and specific goals and objectives that include target dates for accomplishment; D. The youth is actively participating in treatment to the extent possible and consistent with his or her condition, or there are active efforts being made that can reasonably be expected to lead to the youth's engagement in treatment; E. Parent/caregiver/guardian is actively involved in the treatment as required by the treatment plan to the extent all parties are able; F. Progress in relation to specific symptoms or impairments is clearly evident and can be described in objective terms; however, some goals of treatment may not have yet been achieved. Adjustments in the treatment plan include strategies for achieving these unmet goals; G. When clinically necessary, an appropriate psychopharmacological evaluation has been completed and there is active ongoing medication monitoring and management;

	<p>H. There is documented evidence of active, individualized transition planning from the beginning of treatment;</p> <p>I. The youth is actively participating in treatment, is regularly attending treatment team meetings, and is adhering to program rules and guidelines.</p>
Transitional Joint Care Review (TJCR) - Transition Request Criteria	<p>All the additional following criteria must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Treatment needs that were addressed in current episode of care and any previous episodes of OOH treatment; B. Treatment interventions that were successful and/or unsuccessful in current episode of care and any previous episodes of OOH treatment; C. Behaviors/needs that warrant a different OOH intensity of service; D. The youth's perspective on proposed transition (applicable based on cognitive abilities); E. Justification as to why another OOH treatment episode is in the youth's and family's best interest; F. Barriers for the reintegrating the youth to the community at this time.
Transition Criteria	<p>Meeting any of the following criteria is sufficient for transition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The youth's documented treatment plan goals and objectives have been substantially met; B. The youth meets clinical criteria for a higher intensity of treatment service; C. Support systems that allow the youth to be maintained in a less restrictive environment have been thoroughly investigated, identified, and established; D. Consent for treatment is withdrawn by the parent/ guardian/caregiver and/or or the young adult if 18 and older without a designated legal guardian; E. A transition plan with follow-up appointments is in place; the first follow-up appointment should take place within 10 calendar days of transition from the SSH IDD program; F. The youth is engaging in a documented recent pattern of violent behavior that is compromising the safety of the youth and others in the out of home program; G. The child/youth and/or the parent/guardian/caregiver are available but not participating in treatment or noncompliant with the treatment program's rules and regulations. The lack of participation or noncompliance is significant enough to negatively impact the overall treatment course and compromises the child/youth's ability to have a successful, positive response to treatment.