

Short-Term Residential Services for DDW- Eligible Children (Ages 8-18)

THE NEED:

- More children than ever are receiving services through New Mexico's Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DDW).
- The DDW is the state's highest level of community-based support for individuals with IDD.
- Despite the expansion, the DDW currently has no crisis related serve for children experience severe behavioral or psychiatric crises.

When children can no longer be safely supported at home, families are often left with only:

- Psychiatric hospitalization
- Out of state residential treatment

These options are often costly, difficult to access, disruptive to families and not designed for children with IDD.

THE GAP:

New Mexico has expanded access to DDW services but has not created a crisis stabilization option for children whose needs temporarily exceed what can be managed at home.

As a result:

- Children may be separated from their families, schools and communities.
- Families experience unnecessary trauma and disruption.
- State resources leave New Mexico.
- The DDW continuum of care remains incomplete.

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

- Provide a specialized in-state crisis stabilization option for children ages 8-18 who are DDW eligible.
- Keep children connected to families, schools and communities.
- Reduce reliance on psychiatric hospitalization and out of state placements.
- Serve all DDW-eligible children, regardless of custody status.
- Integrate DDW, behavioral health, Medicaid, educational and family supports.
- Include parent and caregiver training, coaching and mentoring.

EXPECTED IMPACT:

- Earlier intervention during crises
- Increased child and family safety
- Reduced hospitalizations
- Reduced out of state placements
- Stronger caregiver skills and confidence
- Improved long term stability at home
- A stronger, more complete DDW service system