



Parent & Caregiver Resource Guide

A Roadmap to Navigating Developmental Disability Services in Platte County, Missouri



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Every family's journey is different. Some people may qualify for services immediately, while others may start by exploring community resources. There is no "right" place to begin. This guide is designed to help you take the next step, wherever you are today.

Section 1: Welcome



If you're reading this guide, chances are you have questions about developmental disability resources, supports, or what comes next. Whether you're just getting started or have been navigating the system for years, you're in the right place.

At Platte County Board of Services (PCBS), we believe individuals and families shouldn't have to figure out a complicated system on their own. This guide will help you understand who may be part of your support team, think about what's important to you or your loved one, explore resources and funding, and identify your next step.

Every person's path is different. Wherever you are today, you can start there.

If you have questions or aren't sure where to go next, call us, email us, or stop by. We're happy to help connect you with the right people and resources.

You don't have to have all the answers. You just have to know you don't have to do this alone.

We're glad you're here.

The PCBS Team

Section 2: Your Roadmap

YOUR ROADMAP TO NAVIGATING SERVICES *in Platte County*



This roadmap gives you a bird's-eye view of the journey many individuals and families take when accessing developmental disability services. Every person's path is unique, and you may enter the process at a different point than someone else.

Whether you are just beginning or have been navigating services for years, we hope this guide helps make the journey a little easier.

Section 3:

Meet Your Support Team

Think of these organizations as members of the same team. They each play a different role, but they all have the same goal—helping you and your loved one succeed.



KCRO--"The Eligibility Experts"

What they do: Determine whether someone qualifies for Missouri developmental disability services.

You will work with them...

At the beginning of your journey.



CHS--"Your Guide"

What they do: Provides your Service Coordinator or Resource Specialist who helps you navigate the system, build your support plan, and connect you to services.

You will probably talk with them...

The MOST. They are your best resource and guide!



Medicaid (MO HealthNet)--"The Funding Partner"

What they do: Helps pay for many long-term supports and waiver services.

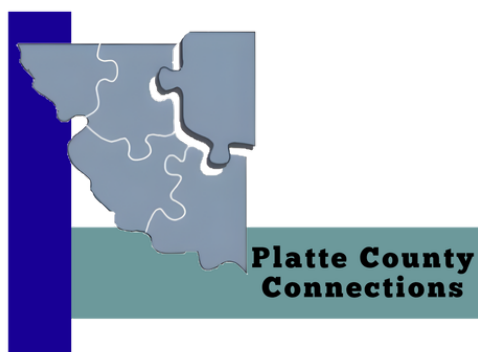
Good to know-Not everyone needs Medicaid immediately.

Platte County Board of Services

Developmental Disability Resources - Since 1975

PCBS--"Your Local Resource"

What we do: We provide services, fund local programs, answer questions, connect families, and help people discover opportunities throughout Platte County.



PCC--"The Gap Filler"

What they do:

Platte County Connections (PCC), the nonprofit partner of PCBS, helps fill funding gaps when insurance, Medicaid, or other resources can't cover an eligible need. Through grants, donations, fundraising, and the Catayoc Family Trust, PCC may be able to provide one-time funding for emergent needs.



**CENTER FOR
HUMAN SERVICES**



**DOWN SYNDROME
INNOVATIONS**



**Special
Olympics**
Missouri

**NORTHLAND
CONNECTIONS**
NeuroDiverseCity



easterseals
Midwest

ABILITY KC



**Vocational
Services Inc.**
...quality services for persons
with disabilities...



Northland
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Summit Future Foundation



**Platte County
Connections**



Community Support Partners--"The Specialists"

These organizations provide everything from employment and recreation to therapies, housing, advocacy, social opportunities, and more.

Section 4:

Thinking About Your Good Life

Every family has different goals. Instead of asking, “What services do I need?” start by asking, “What do I want my life to look like?”

PCBS uses the Charting the LifeCourse framework to help individuals and families think about the whole person and the life they want to live. The framework looks at six connected areas of life, called Life Domains, and helps identify goals, strengths, supports, and opportunities along the way.

PCBS and our Community Support Partners work together to help connect you with the people, programs, and resources that can support those goals. You do not need every organization listed here. Your Service Coordinator can help you explore the options that best fit your life and your goals.

Life Domain	This might include...
Daily Life & Employment	Work, school, volunteering, routines and learning new skills
Community Living	Home, transportation, independence and getting around your community
Healthy Living	Physical, mental and emotional health and wellness
Safety & Security	Personal safety, rights, finances and planning for the future
Social & Spirituality	Friends, relationships, recreation, belonging and faith
Advocacy & Engagement	Making choices, speaking up, setting goals and having a voice

I Want Meaningful Days

Daily Life & Employment



Think about:

How you spend your day, including work, school, volunteering, routines and learning new skills.

Questions to explore:

- What do I enjoy doing?
- What skills would I like to learn?
- Do I want to work or volunteer?
- What would make my day feel meaningful?

Work • Education • Volunteering • Life Skills

I Want to Be Part of My Community

Community Living

Think about:

Where you live, how you get around, what you do at home and how independently you want to live.

Questions to explore:

- Where do I want to live?
- What do I want to do more independently?
- How will I get where I need to go?
- What places in my community are important to me?



Housing • Transportation • Independence • Daily Living

I Want to Feel My Best *Healthy Living*



Think about:

Your physical, mental and emotional health and the supports that help you feel well.

Questions to explore:

- What helps me stay healthy?
- Who helps me understand my health needs?
- What therapies or supports work for me?
- What helps me feel emotionally well?

Health • Wellness • Therapy • Mental Health

I Want to Feel Safe & Secure *Safety & Security*

Think about:

Feeling safe at home and in the community, understanding your rights, managing money and planning for the future.

Questions to explore:

- Do I know what to do in an emergency?
- Who can I call when I need help?
- How do I make important decisions?
- What plans should we make for the future?



Safety • Rights • Decision-Making • Financial & Future Planning

I Want Friends, Connection & Belonging

Social & Spirituality



Think about:

Friendships, relationships, recreation, traditions, faith and the places where you feel like you belong.

Questions to explore:

- Who are the important people in my life?
- Where do I feel like I belong?
- What do I enjoy doing with other people?
- Are there groups, activities or communities I'd like to join?

Friends • Relationships • Recreation • Faith • Belonging

I Want My Voice to Matter

Advocacy & Engagement

Think about:

Making choices, speaking up for yourself, setting goals and having a meaningful role in your community.

Questions to explore:

- How do I communicate what I want?
- What choices are important to me?
- How do I want to be involved in decisions about my life?
- Are there ways I want to lead, advocate or help others?



Choice • Self-Advocacy • Leadership • Community Engagement

I Want Support for My Family *Families Are Part of the Journey, Too.*

Supporting a good life also means supporting the people who help make that life possible. PCBS can help families find information, connect with other caregivers, explore resources and funding, and navigate services along the way.



Parent & Caregiver Group • PCBS • CHS • PCC • Community Resources

What's Next?

You don't need to have answers to every question in this section. These are simply starting points for conversations about what matters most to you or your loved one.

Start with what matters today.

Talk with your Service Coordinator about your goals, questions, and priorities. They can help you identify supports, resources, and next steps that fit the life you want to build.

What matters most to me right now?

Something I'd like to explore...

Someone I want to talk with about it...

Our Community Support Partners

Building your good life may involve many kinds of support. No single organization has to meet every need. PCBS works with Community Support Partners who offer services, programs, and opportunities across the Life Domains. Your Service Coordinator can help you explore the partners and resources that best fit your goals.

Explore our Community Support Partners below. Scan the QR codes to learn more.

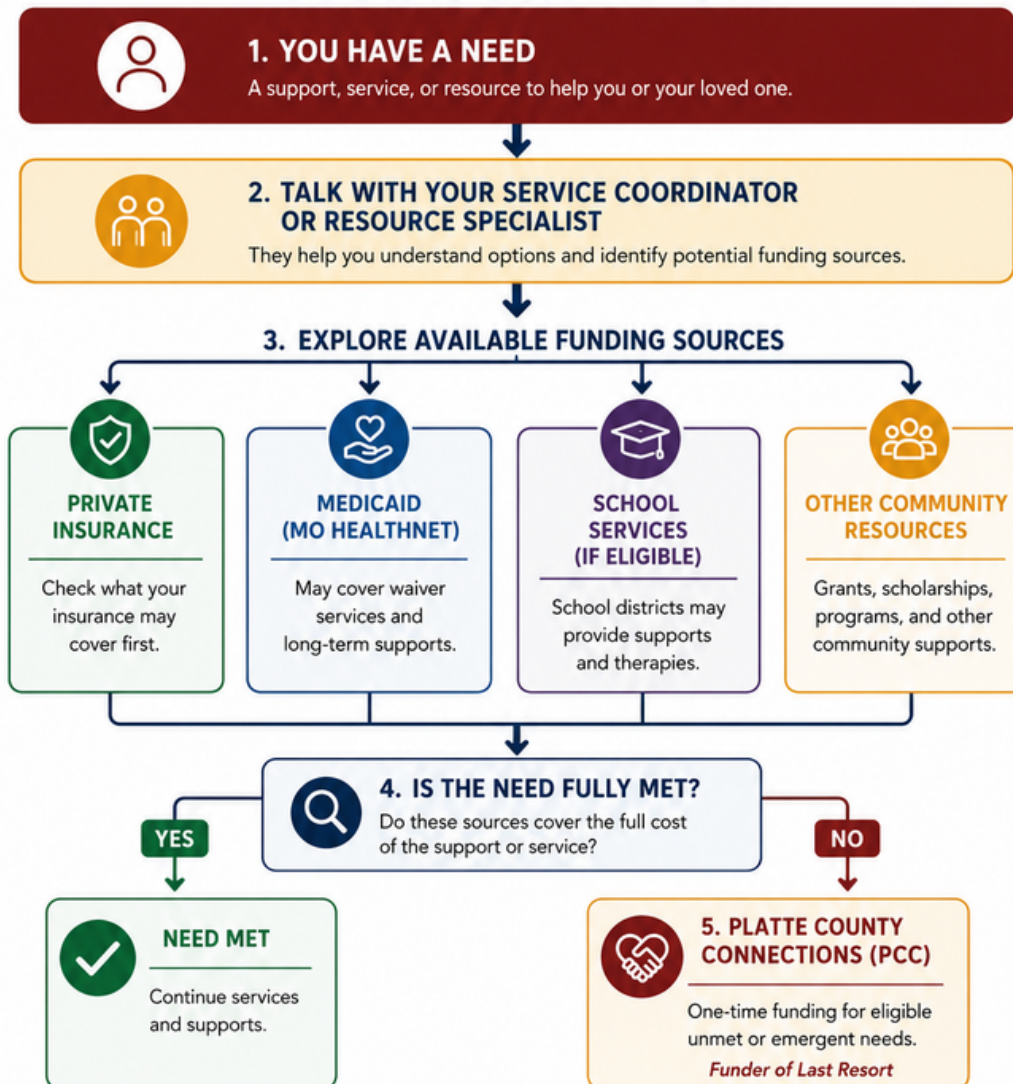


Section 5:

How Supports Are Funded

HOW SUPPORTS ARE FUNDED

Funding looks different for everyone. This chart shows the typical order in which funding sources are explored.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS ALONE.
Your Service Coordinator or Resource Specialist will help you explore options, complete applications, and find the best path forward.

GOOD TO KNOW

- ✓ Every person's funding plan looks different.
- ✓ Many supports are paid for through a combination of funding sources.
- ✓ Your Service Coordinator can help identify what options may be available.
- ✓ If traditional funding isn't available, PCC may be able to help with eligible one-time needs.
- ✓ If you're unsure where to start, ask. We're happy to help!

REMEMBER

No single funding source pays for everything. Most people use a combination of funding sources to get the supports they need.

Funding options and eligibility requirements can change.
Your Service Coordinator is the best resource for the most current information.

Section 6:

Ways to Get Connected

Community Starts Here:

Because services are only part of living a meaningful life.
These programs are designed to help individuals and families build friendships, confidence, skills, and community beyond traditional services.



Mobile NDC



Kansas City
Advocacy Group



Our Podcast



Parent/Caregiver Group

ALSO:

- Community Dances
- Educational Workshops
- Volunteer opportunities
- Partner events

Section 7:

Quick Resource Directory

KCRO - Kansas City Regional Office

What they help with: Eligibility

Phone: (816) 889-3400

Website: www.dmh.mo.gov/dd



CHS - Center for Human Services

What they help with: Service Coordination

Phone: (660) 826-4400

Website: www.chs-mo.org



PCBS - Platte County Board of Services

What they help with: Questions, local resources, funding, connections, and services

Phone: (816) 891-0990

Website: www.pcbsdd.org



Section 8: Your Next Step



Every journey looks different, and you don't need to have everything figured out today.

Start with what matters most to you or your loved one. Ask questions. Explore possibilities. Connect with the people and resources that can help. And when you're not sure what comes next, reach out. PCBS is here to help.



Our Services

- Community Support Partner Funding
- Community Networking
- Community Living
- Day Habilitation
- Transportation

& Many More!



www.pcbsdd.org

(816) 891-0990

7900 NW 106th Street
Kansas City, MO 64153

Your good life doesn't have to look like anyone else's.

We're here to help you build yours.

Section 9: Notes

Notes