

Developmental Center Referral and Application Process

All admissions to state operated developmental centers are voluntary and require consent of the individual or their legal guardian if they are a minor or have been adjudicated incompetent. In addition, all requests for admission must be supported by a letter of endorsement from the individual's responsible Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO). The goal for all admissions to the developmental centers is successful re-integration back to the community.

Types of Admission:

1. **General Admission:** A general admission provides evaluations, assessments and ongoing habilitation services and supports to individuals experiencing specific medical and/or behavioral challenges. The length of the admission varies based on the needs of the individual, but cannot exceed 1 year in duration. Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing by the LME/MCO to the facility director or designee. Extension decisions are based on an individual's continued need as determined by the individual's treatment team.
2. **Respite Admission:** A respite admission provides temporary relief to a family/primary caregiver on either an emergency or scheduled basis when community respite options are not available or appropriate. The length of stay is not to exceed 29 days per admission.
3. **Therapeutic Respite:** A therapeutic respite admission is provided only by the Murdoch Center BART and PATH Specialized Programs. A therapeutic respite admission provides evaluations and assessments to individuals experiencing severe medical and/or behavioral challenges. The length of the therapeutic admission is based on the time needed to address the identified needs, with a typical length of stay of 30-90 days. Requests for extensions beyond 90 days must be submitted by the LME/MCO and reviewed for approval by the facility director or designee.
4. **Specialized Programs:** Specialized programs provide services and supports, inclusive of evaluations and assessments to an identified target population, based on the program-specific admission criteria and length of stay. Requests for extensions to length of stay must be submitted by the LME/MCO and reviewed for approval by the facility director or designee. Murdoch Developmental Center has three specialized programs:
 - The Behaviorally Advanced Residential Treatment (BART) serves young adult males, at least 16 years old, with mild intellectual challenges and/or other developmental disorders, and who have a history of failed treatment placements.
 - The Partners in Autism Treatment and Habilitation (PATH) program serves children from ages 6 to 16 from across the state who have autism spectrum disorder and serious behavioral challenges. The maximum length of stay in the PATH program is up to two years.
 - The Specialized Treatment for Adolescents in a Residential Setting (STARS) program serves adolescents, ages 13 to 17 who have a dual diagnosis of an intellectual disability and a mental illness and demonstrate extreme and dangerous behavioral challenges. The length of stay is up to one year.
 - Therapeutic Respite Addressing Crisis for Kids (TRACK) serves children ages 5 to 17 who have an intellectual disability and/or autism spectrum disorders, serious behavioral challenges and are in behavioral crisis. The length of stay is between 3-45 days.

Referral/Application Process:

1. All persons requesting admission to a developmental center are required to complete an application packet that is signed by the individual's legal guardian. All applications must be submitted by the LME/MCO and must include a letter of endorsement by the LME/MCO. To initiate the application process, contact the LME/MCO in the area individual resides. For Medicaid recipients, contact the LME/MCO in the Medicaid County of origin.

Locate the LME/MCO for your county (link)

2. Applicants' requests are reviewed by the developmental center's admissions committee.
3. Staff from the developmental center screen applicants in person prior to presentation to the admissions committee.
4. Applicants approved for admission but for whom an appropriate placement within the center is not available will be placed on a waiting list.
5. A standardized memorandum of agreement (MOA) specifying the type and length of admission, and specific roles and responsibilities of all parties is signed by the guardian and the developmental center.

TRACK Referral/Application Process:

The purpose of the TRACK program is to divert children in behavioral crisis from psychiatric hospitalization and avoid extended stays in emergency departments. The focus of the program is to stabilize the child's behavior so they can return to their home as quickly as possible.

1. Referrals to the TRACK program require a separate application form which must be submitted by the LME/MCO directly to TRACK. To initiate the application process, contact the LME/MCO in the area individual resides. For Medicaid recipients, contact the LME/MCO in the Medicaid County of origin.
2. Applications are considered by the clinical team at Murdoch and admission is determined by the current bed availability and the clinical treatment needs of the person.