

Principles for Long-Term Services and Supports for Children with Disabilities

1. Families have a right to high quality Long-term Services and Supports that allow them to raise their child with a disability at home. Long-term Services and Supports systems must be responsive to families' needs before they are in crisis.
2. Children and their families should be informed of and have immediate access, without waiting, to high quality community supports that allow them to achieve their individual objectives, maintain their health and participate to the fullest degree in their communities.
3. Children with disabilities should be included with their peers without disabilities. Systems should be flexible to uniquely plan for the individual supports that are necessary to ensure a child can participate to the greatest degree with peers in all community activities and settings with a goal of building toward a life of full community participation and integrated, competitive employment.
4. Children with disabilities should not be raised or spend significant time in institutional settings. Funding systems should incentivize community-based supports for children with disabilities while also decreasing incentives for institutional or segregated supports.
5. Parents, providers and LTSS professionals must receive support, information and training to understand how to develop a plan that fosters equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.
6. Families of children currently receiving or eligible for Long-term Services and Supports should be consistently sought out to provide input and quality assurance feedback to the Children's LTSS system. Accommodations should be made to ensure public input processes are accessible to ensure meaningful family participation in public input processes.