

What is Tennessee Strong Families?

In partnership with the Department of Children's Services, DDA is leveraging its expertise in providing supports to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to increase service options for children with IDD in state custody.

DDA has developed a three-tiered approach.

Tier 1

Direct Support in TN Strong Family Homes

- DDA offers short-term placement to children in DCS custody with high medical needs who are in children's hospitals and emergency rooms awaiting long-term placement.
- DDA provides this care in its former state-operated community homes in Davidson, Shelby and Greene counties.
- Children are able to receive needed nursing and clinical therapies while living in a home and engaging with their communities.

Tier 2

Supporting and Sustaining Foster Placements for Children with IDD Through the TN Strong Families HRA Program

- Supports foster families in offsetting the financial burden associated with high medical and behavioral needs
- Provides critical supports to help care for children with IDD and sustain stable placements
- Uses the Healthcare Reimbursement Account (HRA) model, where a family can use a card to buy medically necessary items to care for children or be reimbursed after the fact
- Provides funding for up to \$20,000 per child per calendar year. Families will be supported to use this program with an Independent Support Coordinator.
- All referrals for TN Strong Families HRA come from DCS Case Workers. No external applications are accepted.

Tier 3

Expanding the Provider Network to Care for Children with IDD

- DDA is working to establish an experienced provider network to support children with IDD and co-occurring behavioral health needs
- Program will provide high levels of medical and behavioral programming as well as therapeutic respite support
- Program will also focus on helping children teach and master independence skills and prepare for transition into adulthood
- Earliest anticipated start date: July 2024

To learn more about the TN Strong Families Program you can scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.tn.gov/disability-and-aging/disability-aging-programs/tn-strong-families.html>

