

Veterans and Active Military Wavier Priority

Veterans and Active Military members have children with disabilities at the same rate as everyone else within our population. However, they have not been able to have the same access to care for their loved ones as the civilian population. A significant reason why access can be a challenge is the wait list.

Below are general criteria for Indiana's Wait List:

- Must be living in the State of Indiana.
- Must establish a level of care for the individual inside of the State of Indiana.
- Must apply for the Waiver.
- Will receive a wait list number which is based upon when you apply.
- Individuals are then provided a waiver as their number comes up.

The criteria listed above are reasonable for the general population, however they cause issues for many Veterans and Active Military in achieving care needed for a family member diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental disability:

- Many military members are moved around the world based upon our country's needs. Therefore, they are never in a State long enough to actually be taken off of a wait list as the process is today.
- Veterans who return home to Indiana are unable to be on the wait list because they haven't established residency. The wait list process postpones critical care and support for an extended period of time.

Organized systems, like the one Indiana has implemented for Waiver selection work well, however, our military members are falling through the cracks unintendedly. We as a task force need to recognize as a State we have inadvertently setup a system where the service men and women whom serve our country and protect our freedom, are not able to access the services they need for their families.

Therefore, it is my recommendation this Task Force provide a show of support for changes which would address this overlooked need for people who have chosen to join of the branches of the armed forces.