

What is a Developmental Disability?

A developmental disability is defined in state statute (SDCL 27B-1-18), as any severe, chronic disability of a person that:

1. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
2. Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;
3. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
4. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and
5. Reflects the person's need for an array of generic services, met through a system of individualized planning and supports over an extended time, including those of a life-long duration.

The Federal Developmental Disabilities Act (Public Law 101-496) defines a developmental disability as a severe, chronic disability of a person five years of age or older which...

- A. Is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments;
- B. Is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two;
- C. Is likely to continue indefinitely;
- D. Results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity:

- self-care;
- receptive and expressive language;
- learning;
- mobility,
- self-direction;
- capacity for independent living; and

- economic self-sufficiency; and

E. Reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated; except that such term when applied to infants and young children means individuals from birth to age five inclusive, who have a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired conditions with a high probability of resulting in developmental disabilities if services are not provided.