

MSY Program Parameters

Effective May 18, 2026, the MSY state team, a collaborative body of the Ohio Department of Medicaid, Department of Children and Youth, Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Youth Services, Department of Developmental Disabilities, and the Department of Education and Workforce has released the following MSY Program Parameters and Terms:

1. The child/youth must either be at risk of custody relinquishment or have been recently relinquished (within 30 days) solely to access treatment.
 - a. Funding will only be authorized for care provided on or after the date of application and for dates of services after custody is returned.
2. The child/youth must have multi-system needs, involving **two** or more public systems (e.g., child welfare, mental health, developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, specialized education).
3. A local or regional care coordination team must be actively working to support the child/youth and family.
 - a. All applications must have a local/regional team working to coordinate and follow their care. They must be actively working to use creative solutions to serve the unique needs of the child/youth and their caregiver(s). Information about the team and creative solutions must be outlined in section 3 of the application.
4. Each child/youth served by the MSY program must be supported by one or more legal guardians who are willing to actively participate in the young person's care planning and treatment.
5. Guardians of children and youth who receive MSY funding for out-of-home care must be willing to have the young person return to the home at the first clinically appropriate opportunity. Legal guardians must affirm their commitments using the Requestor and Legal Guardian Attestation Form. MSY funding for out-of-home room & board costs is **capped at 180 days per applicant** and is authorized for a maximum of 90 days at a time. (Not a lifetime cap, see program terms)
6. Clinical letter of recommendation from a licensed clinician such as an LISW, LPCC, LICDC, or higher (e.g., Psychiatrist, CNP, MD) that is currently providing services to the child/youth is required with all applications. If the recommendation is made by someone with a lower-level license, it must be co-signed by a fully licensed independent clinical professional or higher.

7. Discharge documentation or current treatment summaries for lower levels of care within the last 6 months needs to be attached to application that clearly reflects length of treatment, sessions completed, and dates of service.
8. Evidence of one or more ancillary support such as peer/family support, respite, school-based support, developmental disability services, skill-building groups, or pro-social involvement in athletic, religious, school or community-based activities must be provided.
9. Treatment Provider be identified, have accepted youth, and is willing to sign a provider agreement to receive MSY funding.
10. The MSY program is intended to assist caregivers when they have exhausted local resources and other payment sources. The MSY program is the funder of last resort and can only be accessed when local funds, health insurance, post-adoption assistance funds, and other sources of funding are used first. MSY program funding cannot be used to supplant other funds.
 - a. When insurance covers a service, the team must utilize the covered service providers in lieu of seeking MSY funding to cover another provider unless there is compelling clinical reasoning to do so such as provider specialty.
11. Mental and behavioral health services attempted to stabilize youth in their home & community must have occurred within the last six months.
12. To qualify for MSY funding to cover **room & board for out-of-home treatment in the least restrictive environment** the following additional criteria must be met:
 - a. **Youth must be age 8 or older**
 - b. Identified provider must provide a minimum amount of mental health intervention which is **5** hours per week. Family therapy must occur within 30 days of admission and occur at least **3** times per month.
 - c. Youth and family must have participated in lower levels of care to maintain youth in their home/community within the last 6 months. This could include a combination of school-based outpatient therapy, Office/Home/Community based outpatient therapy, medication management, Intensive Outpatient (IOP), Mobile Response & Stabilization Services (MRSS), and Partial Hospitalization (PHP)
 - d. One or more of the following intensive home & community-based services have been implemented to fidelity & found inadequate for a minimum

treatment period of at **least 12 weeks** (approximately 36 sessions) with full caregiver engagement and participation, with multiple documented weekly contacts and measurable goals. Examples of Evidence-based treatment models include:

1. Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
2. Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
3. Intensive Home-Based Treatment (IHBT)
4. Family Based Intensive Treatment (FBIT)
5. Integrated Family & Systems Treatment (I-FAST)
6. Youth Villages Intercept
7. ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) when appropriate
8. Other evidence-based intensive home & community-based treatment service with fidelity model

***If (c) and / or (d) are unavailable, the application must contain:** documented **unavailability** despite **three** outreach attempts to qualified providers, with waitlist/denial evidence **AND** proof of a combined service array that includes multiple weekly contacts with clinical providers across multiple environments (home, school & community) to provide similar intensity as fidelity model with caregiver/family-based intervention in conjunction with youth specific treatment.

MSY Program Terms

- Eligibility criteria must be fully met.
- Current “placement” in a hospital or youth detention facility does not negate the requirement to utilize intensive home & community-based services to be eligible for MSY funding for Out-of-Home treatment.
- Incomplete applications will be denied, and a new application will be required.
- Funding is never guaranteed and there is no entitlement to funds from the MSY program.
- MSY is not attached or associated with a Medicaid benefit and children/youth are not required to have Medicaid to receive funding through the application process.

- MSY is separate from OhioRISE.
- Retroactive funding will not be authorized. Funding gaps created by failure to submit a complete and accurate continued funding application two weeks prior to authorized funding ending are the responsibility of the CME/FCFC and care team to secure funding to cover.
- If youth's out-of-home treatment room and board were previously funded by MSY, their team must wait a minimum of six months to re-apply for out-of-home funding **AND** demonstrate proof that the caregivers/guardians engaged in services at the time of the prior discharge. Failure to make discharge referrals and actively engage in services does not qualify a youth for additional funding.
- MSY funding for out-of-home room & board must be the appropriate level of care to meet the youth's current symptomology. MSY should not be used in place of more intensive levels of care when warranted.
- **MSY decisions are final and not subject to appeal.**