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## Chapter 16: SERVICES TO FAMILY MEMBERS

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## SECTION 1: DEFINITION

*Family member*, for purposes of receiving vocational rehabilitation services, means an individual:

1. Who either:
  - a. Is a relative or guardian of an applicant or eligible individual; or
  - b. Lives in the same household as an applicant or eligible individual;
2. Who has a substantial interest in the well-being of that individual; and
3. Whose receipt of vocational rehabilitation services is necessary to enable the applicant or eligible individual to achieve an employment outcome.

## SECTION 2: GENERAL GUIDANCE

1. Services to family members may be provided as needed for the individual to participate in vocational rehabilitation activities. The full array of services may be provided but shall be limited to those which, unless provided, the individual's ability to reach their intended goal would be impeded. Services may be provided without restriction as to the age of the family members. Examples of services to family members are:

- a. Services to prepare a family member to assist an individual with disabilities in adapting to altered methods of home management - these might include personal care, home maintenance, or child care during periods of illness or serious adjustment problems to the disability.
  - b. Group, marriage, or family counseling.
  - c. Day care services for children to enable the individual to get to training.
2. Services to family members must be described and justified in the case record. The justification shall describe:
- a. Why services are needed;
  - b. What services are to be delivered;
  - c. Which family member(s) will receive them;
  - d. How the services will be secured and their anticipated cost and duration.

### **SECTION 3: SPENDING AND RELATED GUIDELINES**

Cost of services to family members shall be in accordance with any DBVI policies and spending guidelines existing for a specific service. If guidelines do not exist, cost must be reasonable as determined by the Counselor. The Director (or designee) must approve any service or combination of services to a family member likely to exceed \$500 per individual. Duration of these services shall be limited to accomplishing the objective for which the service is needed, unless there is reasonable evidence to indicate that the provision of these services will not accomplish the objective.

The spending and related guidelines of this chapter shall be reviewed by DBVI every three years with input of the State Rehabilitation Council.