Documenting Special Needs

If the applicant or the applicant household member does not receive disability benefits (SSDI, SSI, or from veteran's disability), the applicant may obtain a letter from their physician (on physician's letter, signed by physician) stating the applicant or applicant's household member meets the definition of Special Needs or Development Disabilities as defined below. These definitions are from the Florida Legislative and Statutory Language.

Persons with Special Needs defined in s.420.0004, Florida Statutes

An adult person requiring independent living services in order to maintain housing or develop independent living skills and who has a disabling condition 420.0004(7) FL Statutes

A young adult formerly in foster care who is eligible for services under s. 409.1451(5);

A survivor of domestic violence as defined in s. 741.28; or

A person receiving benefits under the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program or the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program or from veterans' disability benefits.

Developmental Disabilities defined in s.393.063 Florida Statutes

A disorder or syndrome that is attributable to retardation, cerebral palsy, autism, spina bifida, or Prader-Willi syndrome; that manifests before the age of 18; and that constitutes a substantial handicap that can reasonably be expected to continue indefinitely.

Disabling Condition defined in s.420.0004(7), Florida Statutes

Disabling condition means a diagnosable substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or disability, or the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions, and a determination that the condition is:

(a) Expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration; and

(b) Not expected to impair the ability of the person with special needs to live independently with appropriate supports.