



Adult I/DD FAQs

Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority is here to help EBCI families find the information and services they need. We want to make each step as clear and easy to understand as possible. The contacts below can help answer questions and connect you or your loved one with resources for intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) and autism.

Q

What is I/DD?

A

I/DD stands for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This includes various conditions that begin in childhood and can affect the cognitive functioning, learning and adaptive skills of a person. Examples include Down Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Fragile X Syndrome, etc.

Q

How do I know if I or my adult loved one has an I/DD Diagnosis?

A

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities are mostly identified during childhood. You may not have a formal diagnosis and still meet criteria for a diagnosis. You will work with your doctor to review your needs, concerns and support options. Your doctor or therapist may refer you to a specialist for a full evaluation/assessment.

Q

What supports are there for me, my family or loved one?

A

EBCI Tribal Option is available to help you navigate the service system for you. EBCI Tribal Option Care Managers can assist in identifying if you qualify for services. Services may include supported employment, one on one support, residential options, etc. depending on Additionally; CIHA has an IDD/Autism Team that can also provide guidance. This team is working to establish the EBCI IDD/Autism Enrichment Center.

Q

What is the Enrichment Center?

A

The EBCI IDD/Autism Enrichment Center will be a place for the community to access resources and learn more about the I/DD Community, interventions and supports available to them. CIHA completed groundbreaking on the center in August 2026 with hopes of being open in the fall of 2027. Services for community members who have an I/DD Diagnosis can be established before the center is open. Follow the Cherokee Indian Hospital Authority online for future updates: <https://cherokeehospital.org/idd-enrichment-center-project-progress/>

Q

Who do I contact if I have questions?

A

If you have additional questions or need additional support, you can contact our IDD/Autism Team:

Paige Epley-Williams, I/DD Director
JEpleyWilliams@cherokeehospital.org
Office – 828-497-9163 x 7640

Candy Ross, I/DD Assistant Director
Candy.Ross@cherokeehospital.org
Office – 828-497-9163 x 7595

Feel free to reach out to the Care Management team for additional support:
Tribal Option Care Management – Jenny Hornbuckle – 828-497-9163 x 6778
Primary Care Care Management – Stephanie Brown – 828-497-9163 x 6441