

Medicaid Disability Manual

II. OFFICIAL POLICY

A. Basic Definitions

Department Regulation Section 360-5.2

When used in this manual, unless otherwise stated, the terms below shall be defined as follows:

1. **Disability** is the inability of an individual to engage in any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than twelve months.
2. **Blindness** is the total lack of vision or residual vision being no better than 20/200 or less in the better eye with a corrective lens or restriction of the visual fields or other factors which affect the usefulness of vision as prescribed in the appropriate medical criteria published in this manual. (For additional information see Section K.)
3. **Medically Determinable Impairment (MDI)** is an impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormalities which can be demonstrated by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques. A physical or mental impairment must be established by medical evidence consisting of signs, laboratory findings, or both. **Objective medical evidence from an acceptable medical source is required to establish existence of an MDI. Symptoms cannot establish the existence of an MDI.**
4. **Substantial Gainful Activity** is any work of a nature generally performed for remuneration or profit, which involves the performance of significant physical or mental duties. Work may be considered substantial even if performed part-time and even if less responsible than the individual's former work. It may be considered gainful even if it pays less than former work. (The application of this definition and of the amount of earnings that could result in a finding of substantial gainful activity is set forth in Section E.)
5. **Disability Review Team** is composed of a medical or psychological consultant and another person who is qualified to interpret and evaluate medical reports and other evidence relating to an individual's physical or mental impairments. As necessary, the other person also must be able to determine the individual's capability to perform substantial gainful activity. The Disability Review Team must review the medical report, which must include a diagnosis, and medical and non-medical evidence sufficient to determine whether the individual's condition meets the definition of disability.

Local districts may choose to have a psychologist as part of a review team; however, the psychologist may only evaluate mental impairment cases. It is not mandatory that