

My name is Elena Escoto and I live in Fairfax, Virginia. My family moved back to Fairfax from China when I was 15 months old and my doctors noticed I had global delays. By age four, I was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome, a neuro-genetic disorder that causes seizures, severe global developmental delays and drastically limits speech.

I live at home with my mom and my sister. I have friends at school. I love my family and I'm getting great at communicating on my iPad. Right now I have an EDCD Waiver that pays for Maggie, my wonderful care attendant. Maggie helps me learn to communicate and go out into my community.

I feel really lucky to be in a good school with help from Maggie and my amazing mom. However, my family is worried about my future. I have been on the waiting list for the ID Waiver for three years and I'm not anywhere near the top. I've heard some people got on the waiting list in elementary school and graduated from high school still not having services.



Though my EDCD Waiver helps me now, it won't be enough to help me when the school bus stops coming. I have big dreams and I can do so much, but I'm going to need help at my future job and in my community to achieve my dreams. It is hard for my family to think about how that would work without an ID Waiver. It is scary that we don't know when or if we'll get one before I graduate from high school.

You can change my future! Please fund the waiting list for ID and DD Waivers. End the wait, start a life.

