

Governor Hogan's FY 18 Budget Worsens the Developmental Disability Workforce Crisis

Governor Hogan's proposed FY 18 budget only includes a 2% rate increase for developmental disability services, rather than the 3.5% mandated by the Minimum Wage Act of 2014.

DDA-licensed community services providers are facing *critical* workforce shortages and high turnover rate.

- The State reimbursement rate for the 20,000+ people who comprise the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce is barely above minimum wage-- and is dropping as the state minimum wage increases.
- Governor Hogan's proposed budget will **further erode the stability of the direct support workforce**. As proposed, the state minimum wage will increase by 50 cents on July 1, 2017-- but the reimbursement rate for Direct Support will increase by only 21 cents.
- **DSPs in jurisdictions with higher local minimum wages will suffer even more**—with the reimbursement rate falling below minimum wage. Currently, Montgomery County providers receive local funding to bridge the gap, but Prince George's County providers do not.
- **These should *not* be minimum wage jobs**—DSPs are the backbone of the community services delivery system and are skilled workers who make important and independent decisions that enable people with developmental disabilities to live and work in the community.

What Does This Mean for the ~23,000 People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Who Receive DDA Licensed Community-Based Services?

- Difficulty finding qualified staff
- High staff turnover, resulting in too many changes in staff who help people with important and sometimes personal activities
- Negative impacts on employment of individuals with disabilities
- Negative impacts on families, who may have to leave work due to lack of staff coverage
- Potential threats to health and safety

What Does This Mean for the 8,000+ Marylanders with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who are on the DDA Waiting List for Services?

- An already long wait is at risk for becoming even longer if there are not enough qualified DSPs to provide services
- People are experiencing difficulties in finding providers of their choosing, due to the inadequate funding; those with the greatest needs are experiencing the most difficulty

**Restore the DDA community services rate increase to 3.5%
(an additional \$8.44m in General Funds)**