



MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION

Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

Waitlist Reduction (End the Wait Act)

People with disabilities have the right to be integrated in their communities and live independently in their homes with access to high-quality health care and supports. Maryland's Medicaid Waiver programs provide medically necessary services and supports to Marylanders in their homes and communities. However, tens of thousands of Marylanders with disabilities have been on waitlists for years to access Medicaid Waiver programs.

SB 636 (Chapter 464 of the Acts of 2022) passed last legislative session requires the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to develop a plan to reduce the waiting list for each of its waiver programs by 50%. It also requires the Governor to include enough funding in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to reduce the waiting lists by 50%.

MDH has issued its plan to reduce the waitlists by 50% by the end of **FY 2028**.

MDH's waitlist reduction plans include:

- I. an assessment of whether each waiver program needs to recruit and retain new providers;
- II. measures to recruit and retain providers for each waiver program to expand the capacity of the programs;
- III. any changes in reimbursement rates needed to ensure provider capacity to provide for services provided under the waiver programs;
- IV. the expected time frame for conducting eligibility determinations for the Autism Waiver;
- V. the expected time frame for reducing the waitlist or registry for each waiver program by 50%; and
- VI. the projected cost of the measures to be implemented under the plans.

The bill below will help support the implementation of MDH's plan to reduce the waitlist by 50%.
It will ensure that Medicaid funds will help address provider shortages.

HB 1149/SB 622: Medicaid Waiver Programs – Waitlist and Registry Reduction (End the Wait Act)

- Allows certain Medicaid funds to be used for hiring and retaining providers in the Community Pathways Waiver, the Community Supports Waiver, the Family Supports Waiver, the Brain Injury Waiver, the Home– And Community–Based Options Waiver, the Medical Day Care Services Waivers, the Model Waiver For Medically Fragile Children, and the Autism Waiver
- Amending the budget, effective July 1, 2022, to transfer funds to support the expansion of the Medicaid Waiver programs