



## **Funding for Community Supports for Marylanders with Developmental Disabilities**

Over 18,000 Marylanders rely on direct support professionals to live and work in the community, whether through community providers or self-direction.

Community providers and people who self-direct continue to struggle to recruit and retain a direct support workforce, adding to the difficulty faced by people seeking supports, including transitioning youth coming out of the school system, and adults coming off of the DDA Waiting List.

### **COMMUNITY PROVIDERS NEED SUFFICIENT FUNDING TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS**

Developmental disability community services are funded through Medicaid waivers and receive a 50/50 state/federal match through the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA).

Marylanders with developmental disabilities rely on this funding, and community providers are not allowed to charge for services for people on Medicaid waivers.

Providers struggle to match or exceed wages paid by big-box employers and fast food restaurants that offer easier jobs for higher wages.

### **NEW RATES NEED TO BE FULLY FUNDED**

The Maryland Department of Health has been working on developing a new rate system for developmental disability community services since legislation passed in 2014.

Significant progress has been made, but on the tenth anniversary of passage of the landmark bill, it is time to commit to full funding of the new rate system no later than FY 2026.

### **WHAT DO WE NEED?**

Support for the 3% rate increase included in the Governor's proposed FY 2025 budget for the people who use DDA supports and services.

Support for *additional* funding in the FY 2025 budget to continue progress to achieve full funding of the new rate system, no later than FY 2026.

*For additional information, please contact:*

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