

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES DAY At The Legislature



THESE ARE OUR LIVES

Protect Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

FY27 DDA Budget Reductions and Cost Containment

Governor Moore's FY27 budget for the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) includes three budget cuts that, if approved by the General Assembly, would have a negative impact on people with developmental disabilities, their families, and community providers across Maryland.

The proposed DDA budget cut totals \$155.4 million in General (State) Funds, and \$310.8 million in Total Funds with the federal matching dollars. The proposed cuts would:

Change the Dedicated Hours Policy: Cuts \$27.1 million General Funds; \$54.2 million Total Funds

- Changes existing policy and rate structure to reduce access to 1:1 and 2:1 staffing
- Mandates training for providers and Coordinators of Community Services staff on the dedicated hour policy
- Estimated to affect 3,800 people and 200 or more providers

Impact: This cut would result in the loss of dedicated (one-to-one or two-to-one) staff for many people in three services – Community Living Group Home, Community Living Group Home Enhanced, and Supported Living.

Reduce Self-Directed Wages: Cuts \$62.2 million General Funds; \$124.4 million Total Funds

- Reduces the reasonable and customary wages allowed under self-directed services by aligning wages with Bureau of Labor Statistics data used to set community provider rates
- Eliminates the option of a wage exception
- Estimated to affect up to 4,000+ people who self-direct and hire their own staff

Impact: This cut would result in the inability to pay higher wages for people who need to do so in order to hire and retain staff.

Cap Individual Budgets at \$500,000: Cuts \$66.1 million General Funds; \$132.2 million Total Funds

- Establishes an annual cap of \$500,000 per person for services in someone's plan
- Requires an exception process in order to get federal approval
- Requires federal waiver amendment
- Estimated to affect 1,600 people with budgets over \$500,000
- Of those 1,600, about 820 people have services that actually cost more than \$500,000, who would lose services if they don't get an exception

Impact: This cut would affect people with the most complex medical and behavioral needs, both in the self-direction and the community provider models.

The FY27 DDA budget:

Grows by 8%. This increase reflects:

- Deficit spending for this year (FY26) being carried into next year (FY27)
- Funding required to continue existing services
- Possible funding for new people, including Transitioning Youth, people on the DDA Waiting List, and others

These combined cuts:

- **Impact people's lives**
- **Reduce access to flexible and individualized supports**
- **Make it harder for people to live full lives in the community**
- **Target people with higher support needs**

DDA services are vital to supporting Marylanders with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play in their community. Under the 1999 Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, people with disabilities have the right to access services in the most integrated setting.

These proposed cuts threaten the system that makes that right a reality in Maryland.