



The Moore Center
Creating opportunities for a good life.™

Public Hearing Materials
for **Wednesday, March 12th at 1:30**
Hearing

IT'S TIME TO BE HEARD

TELL LEGISLATORS YOUR STORY OR JOIN IN SUPPORT - EVERY PERSON DESERVES ACCESS TO THE SERVICES THEY NEED TO LIVE A MEANINGFUL LIFE IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH
1:30 PM-5:30 PM
NH STATE HOUSE
107 N MAIN ST
CONCORD, NH
03301

***WEAR BRIGHT PINK!**
AREA AGENCY STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HELP SUPPORT ATTENDEES - WHETHER YOU WANT TO TESTIFY OR NOT! WE WANT LEGISLATORS TO SEE A SEA OF PINK IN SUPPORT OF DD/ABD FUNDING!

CSNI
COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK, INC.

We want to ask the House of Representatives to **FULLY FUND THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET FOR FY2026-2027**. In addition, **PLEASE ALSO FUND THE BDS PRIORITIZED NEEDS LIST**. Learn more about these items below.

Introduction: In addition to the *efficiency budget*, which is the budgeted amount to level-fund the existing services in the waiver, the Bureau of Developmental

Services has asked for additional *prioritized needs funding* for the following services:

- 1) Increases to fund room and board expenses at residential programs
- 2) Rate increases for Community Participation Services, Respite, Supported Employment and Community Participation (Day) Services.
- 3) An increase in Early Supports and Services funding
- 4) Continuation of Recreational Funding for the next two years
- 5) Continue to fully fund the waitlist

The budget as proposed by Governor Ayotte covered the cost of the *efficiency budget* but did not include any of the *prioritized needs* increases in 1-4 above, only the amount to fund the waitlist as required by law (number 5 above).

What wasn't funded?

1) Increases to fund residential room and board expenses:

Federal Medicaid dollars cannot be used to cover Room and Board expenses for people living in staffed residential programs. Most people living in these programs cannot cover the cost of their room and board on their own as many are either unemployed or employed and do not earn much. State dollars cover this gap and there is not enough allocated to this to cover the need. Without an increase to this allocation, provider agencies may need to close their residential programs leaving individuals homeless or needing to find a new place to live.

2) Rate Increases:

The funding structure for DD services does not allow budget increases to account for inflation. Budgets remain

What do I say?

If you or a family member resides in a staffed residence, what would it mean if the provider agency could no longer afford to operate the home and it closed? What if providers stopped opening new staffed residences for those in need?

- If Room and Board Increases are not funded, vulnerable people requiring high levels of care and support are at risk of losing their homes.
- Without appropriate housing, people are at risk of needing to live in homes that are overly restrictive and therefore costlier to operate, because a more appropriate home is unavailable.

What does it mean to you or your family if you cannot find DSP/Staff support?

low and there is not a long-term mechanism to increase these to allow for competitive wages for DSPs. Providers and families struggle to hire people to care for individuals who have approved budgets. The current reimbursement amounts for many Waiver services are too low to attract the workforce needed to meet the needs of individuals and families. Rate increases are not included in the Governor's budget. This means that the first four proposed rate increases for Community Support Services, Respite, Supported Employment and Community Participation (Day) Services will not occur.

3) Early Supports and Services Increased Funding:

Family Centered Early Supports & Services have not been fully funded by state early intervention funds. With increases in the cost of providing services and the number of children served, current funding is insufficient. The current waiting times for services can be up to six months. Federal IDEA prohibits waitlists for infants and toddlers to receive these services, and additional funding is required to meet the growing demand.

4) Recreational Services Funding:

Federal Medicaid dollars cannot be used to fund activities defined as "recreational". For many people with

- When families receive a budget for services, approved by the Bureau of Developmental Services, but cannot find staff to deliver those services, many families are at risk of scrambling to find support from others, taking time off from work, or having to quit their jobs altogether.
- Some of the services individuals rely on DSPs to provide include assistance with accessing the community, working, volunteering, health care needs, medication management, and assistance with activities of daily living including preparing meals, caring for their homes, and daily hygiene.
- This situation can be fixed. Fund rate increases to allow providers to pay DSP's a living wage.

What will it mean if your child is not covered by Medicaid and could potentially face a wait to receive time-critical Early Intervention?

- With a shortfall in funding, providers may not be able to meet demand for services.
- ESS services, when provided on time, can reduce or prevent the need for more costly services as the child gets older.

What will it mean if you or your family member can no longer afford to participate in community activities, if waiver funding will not cover it?

Intellectual Disabilities, these activities are critical ways to allow them to participate fully in their communities. This is required under RSA 171:A-1, "Individual and family services based on full participation in the community, sharing ordinary places, developing meaningful relationships, and learning things that are useful, as well as enhancing the social and economic status of persons served."

- Without continued funding, recreational services and activities that enable people to participate more fully in their communities will no longer be possible.
- Without this funding, individuals are at greater risk of isolation.

Tips for providing testimony:

- In the outer chamber of Representatives Hall will be the sign in. One table for those who are speaking and one table for those who would like to sign in support, neutral or oppose the bill. If you support funding items 1-4 above, sign as neutral and provide testimony describing why you support funding for these services. Legislators need to hear from individuals and families!
- We sit in the middle section and/or left-hand side. Wheelchair Accessible spaces are near the back of Representatives Hall.
- Legislative Liaisons will be on hand at public hearing for information and answering questions.
- Microphones are in the two aisles, and you are welcome to use either one when testifying.
- The Chairman of Finance Committee will call your name, and you will have two minutes to testify maximum.

If you would like a draft testimony template emailed to you, please reach out to communications@moorecenter.org

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