



2023 Legislative Priorities



Developmental Disability (DD) Services are Collapsing

The Home and Community-Based Service(HCBS) System is falling apart. Not only are people on the waitlist not receiving crucial services, but many people with Medicaid waivers are also not being served. These recommendations are critically needed to ensure access to services in the future.

First Step To Rebuild The System

Fund a \$647,800 increment for the Department of Health, Senior and Disabilities Services to add staff and resources to begin implementation of the DD Waitlist Eradication Plan.

Additional Steps To Restore The System

- ❖ Support funding to address serious flaws in the process for determining Medicaid reimbursement rates. The provider community has identified rate reform modeled around a DSP living wage as a non-negotiable necessary step in system sustainability. Current rates are far below the cost of providing services, don't allow for direct support living wages or career paths, and exacerbate the workforce shortages.
- ❖ Encourage the Department of Health to pilot Participant-Directed Services which are a Medicaid option that adds a more self-directed and flexible option to the service system.
- ❖ Ask Senator Murkowski and Senator Sullivan to co-sponsor Senator Casey's **Better Care Better Jobs Act**, which will enhance Medicaid funding for HCBS and strengthen and expand the direct support workforce by regularly updating HCBS payment rates and passing rate increases through to direct service staff to increase wages.