



Alliance for the Betterment of
Citizens with Disabilities

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

Department of Health FY 2024 Budget Listening Session

November 29, 2022

Good day, Commissioner Persichilli, and members of the Department of Health. On behalf of ABCD, thank you for this opportunity to share our thoughts as you begin deliberations on the proposed FY '24 Budget. It means a lot to us to be a part of your process.

The first administration to do so in well over a decade.

We were pleased when on May 6, 2021, understanding the importance of bolstering Early Intervention Services, the Murphy Administration and the Department of Health under your leadership made an unprecedented move announcing that effective July 1, the Early Intervention provider rate would increase by 5% which was followed in January 2022 by an additional 2.5%. We were deeply grateful for your continued commitment to prevent the erosion of our life changing services through the annualization of this 7.5% increase in FY'23.

And in June of 2022 ARP funds were used to provide supplemental funding for our practitioners to help off-set the high price of fuel.

Thank you.

Delay or inaction may mean a missed opportunity.

We are rate takers, not makers, forced into a “make do and do without culture” - until the inconsistent intervention of government. Meanwhile we are tasked with changing the life trajectory of infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities by preventing and minimizing permanent disability. For this, we need transformative investment in the form of rates which would continuously cover all costs.

The current political climate in NJ – committed, hardworking and talented members of the Murphy Administration and DOH - provides us with a window of opportunity to create lasting reform. Please consider an annual rate increase for EI providers – not less than a modest 5.5% in the FY'24 Budget.¹

It always seems impossible until it is done.

¹ NJDOH has not released its completed EI rate study from which it is anticipated a proposed increase will be derived.