



Alliance for the **Betterment** of
Citizens with **Disabilities**

Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies

FY'26 Budget Alert
Advocacy Needed to Prevent a 5% Decrease
We Can't Lose Ground

The Murphy Administration is responsible for groundbreaking policies and resources that ensured individuals with intellectual and developmental delays at every stage of life and at every level of ability had the opportunity to live, grow and thrive in the community.

Here are some of those important initiatives

- Direct care is essential work. Governor Murphy formally recognized the direct care workers' contribution to our community through unprecedented annual wage increases and additional resources for education and training.
- Early Intervention is an essential system of service. Governor Murphy supported the transformative efforts of EI providers to prevent and minimize permanent disability by ending the 16-year rate draught with numerous increases and additional resources to improve administration and quality of the benefit.
- The mental health needs of the IDD population must be addressed. Governor Murphy worked to overcome the stigma and ignorance about IDDMH which often led to failed care and negative outcomes through the development of emergency capacity beds, stabilization homes, and a mobile crisis response team.
- Day habilitation is a crucial service. Governor Murphy recognized the significance of opportunities for individuals to acquire the skills and experience needed to participate in and be integrated into the community through his fundamental commitment to the sustainability of this service.
- Individuals must be empowered to exercise their choice and control. Governor Murphy acknowledged the importance of high-quality support coordination to achieve this goal by establishing a payment rate that matched their required education and experience level.
- Individuals deserve the opportunity to work. Governor Murphy saw the value of employment and increased the rates and access to supportive employment, vocational rehabilitation and NJWorkAbility.

- Individuals with disabilities often require access to safety net programs. Governor Murphy understood that poverty issues disproportionately impact people affected by disability and to live in the community rely on certain programs by increasing access/funds to PAAD, Sr. Gold, HAAADP, SNAP and capped housing rates.
- Agencies which provide services and supports to IDD are not immune to economic challenges and realities. Governor Murphy accepted that agencies are businesses and that as the rate setter the State has a responsibility to uphold them by providing an across-the-board COLA to all DDD Community Providers for two consecutive years.
- Good leadership gets passed around. During the pandemic, Governor Murphy lead by example showing us the qualities of good leadership in a time of crisis – empathy, communication, coordination, adaptability, resilience, creative problem solving and hope.

The State is considering an across the board decrease of 5% to all departments in the FY'26 Budget. Governor Murphy has been an excellent fiduciary for our state, but he must not balance the budget on the backs of infants, toddlers and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays. We can't lose the important ground we have gained through Governor Murphy's vision and leadership.

Before January 15, 2025, please contact Governor Murphy via his website at www.nj.gov/governor/contact/all/

Ask the Governor not to cut rates in the Division of Developmental Disabilities in DHS and in Early Intervention in DOH.

Thank you.

January 8, 2025