



Alliance for the Betterment of  
Citizens with Disabilities

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**Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies**

July 1, 2025

**Re: Fiscal Year 2026 State Budget**

Dear Members, Colleagues and Friends,

The Murphy Administration and the NJ Legislature are responsible for groundbreaking policies and resources that ensure individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays can live, grow, and thrive in the community.

On February 25, 2025, after weeks of advocacy, watching solid Congressional “no” votes transform into “yes” votes for a budget framework which put Medicaid at serious risk, was a tough thing to watch. But it did not dissuade us, because the lives of people with I/DD count.

Earlier that same day, a governor in his last year, facing a structural deficit and the risk of losing over 12% of federal Medicaid funding made responsible and moral choices by not putting the responsibility on the back of the people we serve. This was due in no small part to the efforts of Commissioners Adelman and Baston and the civil servants who made savings wherever they could. As the budget process proceeded, the NJ Legislature would weigh in by showing its continued commitment to infants, toddlers, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and delays.

As a result, instead of a possible 5% reduction the FY’26 Budget includes:

- An increase of \$5.3 million (state share) for enrollment growth in NJ WorkAbility program following the eligibility expansion under 2021 law.
- \$1.0 million to purchase the referral network software for the coordination of the various components of the State’s 9-8-8 mental health crisis and suicide prevention system.

- \$9.1 million (state share) reflecting higher compensation expenditure partially in response to the annual increases to the State minimum wage to support the wages of DSPs and their supervisors. This increase will be in effect on January 1, 2026.
- \$132.5 million (state share) for enrollment and service cost growth for DDD.
- \$6.8 million increase for payments related to SSI program due to growth in program participation.
- \$2 million (state share) increase in the current Early Intervention Provider billable rate.
- Restoration of funding for the Centers for Independent Living, Special Needs Dental Treatment Center, and various other contracted services.

In FY 2026, DSP/Supervisors will receive a CPI increase on January 1, 2026, the priority waiting list will be reduced by 318 individuals, the Early Intervention Child Find marketing program will receive increased funding, and Early Intervention Providers will receive a rate increase.

Today, in NJ, we are not losing ground.

Sincerely,



Cathy Chin