



Alliance for the Betterment of  
Citizens with Disabilities

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**Empowering People: Providers Shaping Policies**

DHS FY'27 Budget Listening Session  
December 2, 2025

Commissioner Adelman, Deputy Commissioner McGuire, Assistant Commissioners Seifried and Woods and DHS staff, during the span of this administration your achievements have been substantial and your leadership undaunted. Consequently, it was no surprise that at the mere mention by Congress of cuts to Medicaid and other social safety net services, you immediately set out data in hand to prevent the erosion of our services. Ground was gained. Thank you for defending societies' achievement. Thank you in advance for we have no doubt the proposed budget you pass to the next administration will reflect this dedication.

Technological and Moral Progress

Remote Supports (RS) are a means by which to deliver DDD Waiver services to maximize the level of self-dependence chosen by and appropriate for the individual. The use of RS will enable some individuals to live independently, work in competitive integrated environments, participate in inclusive community activities, increase their safety, health, and privacy, and minimize passive staffing when appropriate. Please advocate for including RS as a fully funded waiver service.

Policies which Disproportionately Disadvantage Some Individuals

"I couldn't get out of the house and come to program to see my friends, play my music, and get my therapy, if the wheelchair van didn't pick me up every day."

"My daughter has a catheter and ostomy bag and needs a nurse otherwise she couldn't attend her day program; I'd have to leave my job and the both of us would be at home all day."

"I practice my swallowing every day with my (speech) therapist, so I won't need a feeding tube so that I can continue to eat foods I like and have meals with my friends at my home."

Despite these realities, current policies regarding transportation to and from day habilitation (especially for people in wheelchairs), nursing, and physical, occupational and speech habilitative therapies disproportionately disadvantage those who have multiple physical, neurological, and developmental disabilities. How so? Reimbursement rates for what constitutes basic services for this I/DD subgroup to continue to participate in the community are so low or nonexistent that if not for the Herculean efforts of agencies that are mission driven, i.e. hell bent on adequately serving the individuals for whom they have made a moral commitment, these services would be relatively unavailable.

We must promote access to opportunity and equality in service delivery regardless of an individual's level of complexity. Therefore, these aforementioned services must be deemed basic; fundamental to certain individuals' ability to thrive in the community and, therefore, adequately resourced to be truly available.

#### Maintaining System Viability

DDD has received additional funds in FY25 and FY'26 for the expanded number of individuals receiving community services and for the shifts in consumer spending patterns to more expensive goods and services. Maintaining the health and viability of your main partners, the licensed and certified sector of the system must also be considered in DDD trend calculations. We request an annualized COLA increase across the board for all DDD Community Providers.