



the provider alliance

2023 Advocacy Priority

Budget Request \$430 million state fund increase plus federal match.
Purpose To increase DSP wages to \$20 per hour to reestablish workforce.
To restore service capacity for individuals and families

Current workforce data

Average Hourly Wage \$16.72
DSP Positions Vacant 24% (Approximately 15,000 positions statewide)
Annual Turnover Rate 37%

Snapshot of the ID/A Community Crisis

- Nearly 60,000 Pennsylvanians are at risk of losing essential services because there are not enough DSPs to care for them.
- More than 12,000 people remain on the Pennsylvania waiting list for ID/A services. Of these individuals 5,400 have an Emergency need.
- Pennsylvanians with complex needs and multiple diagnoses are at the greatest risk of losing essential services.
- Without DSPs people go without services and are being cared for by parents or other family caregivers.
- Families have reported losing their jobs, their homes, and retirement savings. Families have become the safety net, and this is not sustainable.
- Underinvestment has a disproportionate economic impact on people with disabilities, and the workforce that supports them, the majority of which is comprised by female and minority workers.
- ID/A is funded through a single-payer system; government funding is the only resource.

The many responsibilities a DSP must perform independently include,

- Manage complex and chronic health conditions
- Administer medications
- implement treatment plans
- support mental health
- Ensure health and safety in all situations
- Provide essential care and support all hours of the day, seven days a week, for a lifetime

The many challenges for the People we serve & their Families include

- Difficulty in finding staff or no staff at all
- Program closures that eliminate essential services
- Being on a waiting list with no hope of receiving needed services
- Compromised health & safety
- Negative effects on mental health, anxiety, and social decline
- Financial devastation



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It is our duty and responsibility to provide care and support for the ID/A community.

- People and families who cannot receive care are suffering dire consequences.
- Dedicated DSPs are overworked and cannot earn a sufficient living.
- Our community system is crashing and will not be there for anyone if we do not act now.

Please contact your legislator to communicate this urgent message and tell your personal story.

Ask them to write a letter to their leadership. A draft letter that you can share is available in our Advocacy Toolkit located at www.provideralliance.org where you can also find additional information and a link to find your legislator.

Please write to them today.

Thank you!