



Urgent Call to Protect Maryland's Developmental Disabilities Services

Stop the Cuts, Protect Lives!



The Issue

Governor Wes Moore's proposed **FY25 & FY26 budget** includes severe **funding cuts to DDA services**, jeopardizing essential supports for **thousands of Marylanders with developmental disabilities (DD)**. These cuts would **limit access to care, reduce service availability, and place immense strain on families, caregivers, and providers.**

Programs at Risk

The proposed FY25 budget reductions total **over \$200 million**, directly impacting services that enable people with disabilities to live independently and participate in their communities.

Critical Cuts Include:

\$54.2M

Revision of **Dedicated Hours Policy**, forcing people in Community Living to **exhaust shared hours before receiving dedicated support.**

Elimination of the Geographical Differential Rate, disproportionately affecting providers in high-cost areas.

\$56M

\$36.5M

Self-Direction Wage Allowance Adjustment, reducing pay flexibility for self-directed caregivers.

Elimination of the Wage Exception Process, capping wages for self-directed support staff.

\$4.7M

\$2.8M

Elimination of Low Intensity Support Services (LISS), a lifeline for many families.

Utilization of Waiting List Equity Funds, diverting resources meant to support people waiting for services.

\$15M

Restoration of Individual & Family Directed Goods & Services Spending Cap, further restricting access to needed supports.



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The Human Impact

These cuts are not just numbers; they represent real people who rely on these services every day.

"Without my one-on-one support, I can't go to work, be independent, or even do basic things like grocery shopping. I don't want to lose the life I've built."

— Bridget, a person supported through Community Living

"As a caregiver, I'm already stretched thin. If my son loses his support hours, I don't know how we'll manage. The system is supposed to help people live with dignity, not take it away."

— Michael, a parent of a child with disabilities

The Ask: Protect DDA Funding

We Urge Legislators To:

- 1. Reject these cuts and maintain full funding for essential DDA services.**
- 2. Ensure equitable access to community-based supports so that no Marylander is left behind.**
- 3. Advocate for sustainable funding to uphold Maryland's commitment to people with disabilities.**

Maryland must not balance its budget at the expense of its most vulnerable citizens. Protecting DDA services is not just a financial decision—it is a moral imperative.

#InCommunityTogether