



GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

Governor Shapiro's 2024–25 Proposed Budget ID/A Community Talking Points

Investing in Competitive Pay and Reimbursement of Services for Home & Community–Based Care

- Too many Pennsylvanians can't access the care they or a loved one need because there aren't enough caregivers — **Governor Shapiro** understands that's because **these caregivers aren't getting paid enough**.
 - The state rate that helps determine their paycheck can yield **as little as 12 bucks an hour**. So consequently, these caregivers — who got into this field because they want to help people — go find work elsewhere, because they just don't get paid a livable wage.
- **Governor Shapiro** is prioritizing investments in home and community-based service providers, so they can **pay competitive rates to attract and retain staff** who provide these life-changing services to Pennsylvanians.
- This is a fight we can all get behind — ensuring individuals with ID/A have **access to the right services at the right time**, while providing better care for our families and neighbors, and making Pennsylvania more competitive.
- **Governor Shapiro** cares about this community. **He sees them and wants to help**. That's why he's making a major investment in the ID/A community.

- In September, Governor Shapiro directed DHS' Office of Developmental Programs to begin an immediate evaluation and assessment of the rates paid to intellectual disability and autism programs that employ direct support professionals. Building on that, Governor Shapiro is proposing an increase in reimbursement rates by 12%, which will invest a total of over \$480 million, state (\$217 million) and federal (\$266 million) funding for programs that support ID/A.
 - This process is critical to ensure that providers are paid appropriate reimbursement rates so they can set wages that support and retain qualified, dedicated staff who help Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and autism live safe, vibrant lives in their community among their family and peers.

The Numbers

- **Expanding Home and Community-Based Service Programs:** This budget will invest **\$34.2 million** in Community Waiver and **\$1.85 million** in the Community Base Program, which will allow DHS to expand the number of individuals participating in home and community-based services programs.
- **Reimbursement Rates:** The 2024–25 executive budget invests **\$213 million** toward Community Waiver Program, **\$2.1 million** in the Autism Intervention Program and **\$1.1 million** in the Community Base program and leverages **\$266 million** in total federal funding to increase resources for providers of home and community-based services.
 - Access to services is not possible without supporting the providers and direct support professionals who provide peace of mind to countless families and caregivers.
- **Equality in Communication Services:** Inclusivity and equality require appropriate communication for Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities and/or autism who need it. This budget invests **\$934,000** to add American Sign Language and English interpreter services to program serving this population.