



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Final PA budget is a ‘strong step forward,’ says intellectual disability community**

*Intellectual disability network of care to receive increase in state and federal funds*

**HARRISBURG, Pa. (July 12, 2024)** – Intellectual disabilities and autism (ID/A) advocates and providers are calling the final 2024-25 Pennsylvania budget a “strong step forward” that will “change so many lives for the better.” The approved budget includes additional funding for increased rates and more capacity to serve the waiting list. As Gov. Josh Shapiro noted last night in his final budget remarks, “The ID/A community was finally heard in these halls of power.”

“It feels good to be heard finally. We want to thank the Governor for recognizing the need to invest in the lives of people with ID/A and their families,” said Sherri Landis, executive director for The Arc of Pennsylvania. “This investment puts the ID/A system on a path to ensuring individuals waiting for services and their families are properly funded. It will change not only their lives but the lives of DSPs, who are the backbone of the ID/A system. Thank you to Governor Shapiro and the General Assembly for making this happen. And thank you to our partners and everyone across the advocacy network for their work in getting this across the finish line.”

Data from the PA Waiting List Campaign indicates that 13,200 individuals were on the waiver wait list as of March 31, 2024, with 6,013 individuals in need of emergency services. The same data indicates that nearly 2,400 individuals will need services within the next two years. “This budget delivers a historic amount for (individuals with an ID/A) and begins the process of finally ending the waitlist for services that they need,” the governor noted in his remarks.

“I am grateful for the partnership and collaboration with Pennsylvania Advocates and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities (PAR), The Provider Alliance, MAX Association, The Alliance of Community Service Providers, The Arc of Pennsylvania and RCPA,” said Richard Edley, PhD, CEO and president of Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA). “It was this unique and unified advocacy that has led to this important step forward in the administration’s multi-year growth strategy. Thank you, Governor Shapiro, and the House and Senate, for listening. We look forward to our continued work together.”

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### **About The Arc Pennsylvania:**

The Arc of Pennsylvania is the state’s leading advocacy organization promoting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. More at <https://thearca.org>.

**About the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA):**

With well over 350 members, the majority of who serve over one million Pennsylvanians annually, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) is among the largest and most diverse state health and human services trade associations in the nation. RCPA provider members offer mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children's, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging services, across all settings and levels of care. Visit <https://paproviders.org> for more information.

**About Pennsylvania Advocates and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities (PAR):**

PAR proudly represents provider organizations whose mission is to serve and support Pennsylvania's children and adults with autism or intellectual disability. With a workforce of over 50,000 Pennsylvanians supporting tens of thousands of individuals and their families, the association promotes the highest standards of service through advocacy, information, training and education, and the resources provided by our members. Visit <https://par.net> for more information.

**About The Provider Alliance:**

TPA supports agencies that serve people with intellectual disability and autism across Pennsylvania. We do this through collaboration, advocacy, innovation and information-sharing across our membership. TPA promotes best practices and workforce development to help members deliver safe, supportive, and compassionate services that are part of the fabric of local communities. More at <https://provideralliance.org>.

**About The Alliance of Community Service Providers:**

The Alliance of Community Service Providers is a non-profit association of organizations who provide service to children and adults with mental health conditions, substance use disorders, and/or intellectual disabilities. The Alliance works to improve the quality and sustainability of services, provide a voice for our agencies and the people they serve at the city and state levels, and create a venue for collaboration, problem solving, and information sharing. Find out more at <https://thealliancecsp.org>.

**About MAX Association:**

MAX seeks to be the leading association of human service providers in the counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery by supporting them to secure the necessary resources to fulfill their individual missions. We strive to create a cooperative organization among the community service providers for people with behavioral health disorders, developmental disabilities, and drug and alcohol involvement and their families in order to promote continuing quality improvement of supports and needs-based allocation of resources. Learn more at <https://maxassociation.org>.