

Talking Points

What Is the iBudget Waiver?

- The iBudget waiver is a health insurance program that serves nearly 35,000 individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is funded by federal and state dollars through Medicaid- the only public health insurance program available to people with disabilities.
- The iBudget waiver provides critical, specialized long-term services that are not available through standard Medicaid managed care providers or private health insurance companies.
- The iBudget waiver helps people get the care and support needed to live and work in their own homes and communities. It is the only program that prevents a person from having to live in an institution to get the care they need.
- Our legislature must understand the iBudget waiver's critical importance in people's lives.

Why Is It Important?

- We are 49th in the nation in our Medicaid spending for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Over 70% of the 35,000 people on the iBudget Waiver live in their own home or their family home, which is a much less expensive option than costly institutional care.
- However, nearly one third of family caregivers are over the age of 60, which means that increasing support will be needed as these caregivers age.
- Critical services that are not covered by regular insurance or state plan Medicaid must be preserved in the iBudget waiver.
- The waiver is a cost containment system that saves the State 3.4 billion dollars in institutional costs yearly.

What Do We Recommend?

- The iBudget waiver must be included in the social services estimating conference to secure a commitment for funding the essential services needed by the nearly 35,000 currently funded on the waiver.
- Waiver services must not be moved to for-profit managed care providers. There is no evidence that indicates there are savings to the State with this model while maintaining quality care.
- Adopt recommendations in the Agency for Persons with Disabilities report to the legislature if none of the choices force individuals back into institutions.