



Local IDD Authorities Support People with Intellectual Disabilities

People with intellectual disabilities (ID) face distinct, lifelong challenges. For many years, large-scale, residential institutions were the only comprehensive service available to people with ID. Over the past decade, legislative investments created opportunities for more people to remain at home or in community settings.

Local IDD Authorities, acting as agents of the state, support people with ID to live where they choose, engage in community life, and seek and maintain employment.

Statutory Role in a Changing System

The service delivery system for Texans with ID is slated to undergo significant changes in the coming years; most notably, the Home and Community-based Services and Texas Home Living programs will be shifted from services managed by a state agency to services managed by insurance companies (referred to as “managed care”).

In this changing environment, the assessment, service planning, and monitoring role of the Local IDD Authority through Targeted Case Management (TCM) becomes even more important to ensuring continuity of services over time for this vulnerable population. TCM is provided for over 45,000 people with ID each year, ensuring a connection to local community resources; enhanced local provider oversight and accountability measures; and an ally focused on a person’s choices and needs.

What is Intellectual Disability?

Intellectual disability is a condition characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning (reasoning, learning, problem solving) and adaptive behavior (practical and social skills). Intellectual disability was formerly described by the term “mental retardation” (now considered disrespectful).

Most often evident at birth or in early childhood, the condition must have occurred before age 18. Causes include trauma and genetic conditions, such as Down syndrome.

| IDD Programs | Persons Enrolled (FY2016) |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Community ICF/IID | 5,686 |
| GR Community Safety Net | 5,743 |
| Home and Community Services (HCS) | 25,388 |
| State Supported Living Centers | 3,149 |
| Texas Home Living (TxHmL) | 5,560 |
| Total: | 45,526 |

Local IDD Authorities also provide General Revenue-funded community safety net services for nearly 6,000 people each year who do not have access to long-term services and supports. These services are provided in crisis situations and as necessary to promote health and safety.

Today, approximately 80,000 people are waiting for community-based ID services that provide a cost-effective alternative to institutional care. By investing in these services, Texas upholds the values of choice and shared responsibility.

What do we ask of you?

We urge lawmakers to support exceptional items and appropriations that:

- Reduce waiting lists for community services;
- Increase wages for direct service workers;
- Enhance training in trauma-informed care for staff at all levels of service provision;
- Support improvements in community day habilitation services;
- Increase rates for community services related to complex medical and mental health needs; and
- Maintain funding for specialized teams and intensive case management for people transitioning from or at risk of institutionalization.

