



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 (FY2017)
Community ICF/IID	4,921
GR Community Safety Net	5,743
Home and Community Services (HCS)	27,012
State Supported Living Centers	3,022
Texas Home Living (TxHmL)	6,555
Total:	47,253

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.

By investing in community-based IDD services that provide a cost-effective alternative to institutional care, Texas upholds the values of choice and shared responsibility.

What do we ask of you?

We urge lawmakers to:

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

