

Local IDD Authorities Support People with Intellectual Disabilities

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face distinct, lifelong challenges. The Texas Legislature has taken several steps over the last decade to rebalance the service system for people with IDD from institutional care to community services and to seek cost-effective solutions to safely support a highly vulnerable population.

Community Centers serving as Local IDD Authorities act as the front door for essential and cost-effective services supporting people with IDD to live where they choose, engage in community life, and seek and maintain employment. Local IDD Authorities also provide crisis intervention and other safety net services that allow individuals with IDD to remain in community, close to family and friends.

Statutory Role in a Changing System

The IDD system is undergoing a system re-design, which is slated to include transitioning all or a portion of IDD long-term services and supports (LTSS) from traditional Medicaid to a managed care model. A pilot to test the delivery of IDD LTSS in a managed care model will begin in September 2023. 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.

Local IDD Authority case managers provide TCM for approximately 40,000 people with IDD each year, working directly with each individual to ensure the person receives needed medical, social, and educational supports through person-directed planning. Local IDD Authorities also provide General Revenue-funded community safety net services for more than 2,000 people 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.

Local IDD Authority case managers provide in-person monitoring to promote effective outcomes and opportunity for persons with IDD to remain in community over the course of their lives. This support offers persons with IDD a direct connection to community resources, enhanced local provider oversight and accountability, and an ally focused on personal choice and needs.

What do we ask of you?

- Fund Client Services Cost Growth for community-based IDD providers (**HHSC Exceptional Item 1**);
- Increase Access to IDD Waiver interest lists (**HHSC Exceptional Item 4**);
- Enhance Day Habilitation Services in IDD Waiver Programs (**HHSC Exceptional Item 9**);
- Continue Building on Previous Investments to the IDD Crisis Continuum of Care; and
- Maintain IDD Provider Rates at Current Levels.

What is IDD?

Formerly described by the term “mental retardation” (considered disrespectful), **intellectual disability (ID)** is a condition characterized by significant limitations in intellectual functioning, such as reasoning, learning, and problem solving, and social skills. 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.

Developmental disability (DD) refers to a broader group of physical and mental conditions, inclusive of ID, that occur before age 22 and significantly impact a person’s life.

Texas is home to more than 500,000 adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).