

Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) System Landscape

People with 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 seek cost-effective solutions to safely support this highly vulnerable population. Unfortunately, the demand for IDD community-based services continues to exceed available resources.

IDD System Stakeholders

Local IDD Authorities (LIDDAs) act as the front door for essential and cost-effective services supporting people with IDD to live where they choose and engage in community life. LIDDAs also provide crisis intervention and other safety net services, such as day habilitation and respite, that allow individuals with IDD to remain in community, close to family and friends.

Public and private IDD providers are represented by three IDD Provider Associations: Texas Council of Community Centers (public providers), Private Providers Alliance of Texas (PPAT) and Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas (PACSTX), which represent providers of:

- IDD Waiver services, including Home and Community Based Services (HCS) and Texas Home Living (TxHmL)
- Community-based Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/IID)

[HHSC's website](#) provides an overview of IDD Services.

Select advocacy organizations focusing on IDD services also help families and individuals with disabilities seek, find, and navigate services:

- Disability Rights Texas
- EveryChild, Inc.
- Texas Advocates
- Texas Parent 2 Parent
- Texas Council of Developmental Disabilities (TCDD)
- The Arc of Texas and local chapters

IDD Stakeholder Priorities

Increase Access to IDD Waiver Programs (HCS, TxHmL, and DBMD): More than 100,000 individuals are waiting for community-based services and supports through an IDD Waiver program, and some have waited as long as 16 years. The Legislature provided funding for 1,328 individuals to access IDD Waiver services in the 2020-2021 biennium and 1,019 individuals in the 2022-2023 biennium.

- **What you can do:** Support increased access to IDD Waiver services to reduce the years people wait for services.

IDD Direct Support Professionals Retention: IDD provider staff are vital to supporting individuals with IDD who live in the community. IDD providers experience high turnover, largely due to rates that do not support competitive wages, often paying lower than the starting wages of many fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

- **What you can do:** Support increased Medicaid provider rates to improve direct support professionals compensation.

Resources to serve individuals with IDD who have high needs: Local IDD Authorities and IDD providers often have difficulty obtaining authorization to provide necessary services for individuals with high needs.

- **What you can do:** Support increased investment to strengthen service capacity for individuals with IDD who have high medical or behavior support needs.

Expand Capacity for IDD Crisis Services: The Legislature provided funding in 2019 to connect Local IDD Authorities with jails to identify and divert individuals with IDD who interact with law enforcement and to expand outpatient mental health services for individuals with IDD. These initiatives provide vital support for individuals in the community, reducing the risk of institutional care.

- **What you can do:** Support continued investments in crisis response services for individuals with IDD in unstable situations in the community.

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 to be considered an ID. 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).