

MISSING FROM THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET:

→ \$28M of Promised Funding ←
for community services to people with
developmental disabilities

Governor Hogan's proposed FY 2019 budget only includes a 1% rate increase for developmental disability services, rather than the 3.5% mandated by the Minimum Wage Act of 2014.

Governor Hogan's Broken Promise Will Worsen the Developmental Disability Workforce Crisis

DDA-licensed community services providers are facing *critical* workforce shortages and high turnover rate.

- The State reimbursement rate for the 20,000+ people who comprise the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce allows for a starting wage that is barely above minimum wage-- and is dropping as the state minimum wage increases.
- Governor Hogan's proposed budget will **endanger the stability of the direct support workforce**. Under the proposed budget, DSPs will fall even farther behind, with the state minimum wage increasing by 85 cents on July 1, 2018—and the reimbursement rate for the Direct Support workforce DECREASING by 2 cents!
- These should *not* be minimum wage jobs—DSPs are the backbone of the community services delivery system and are skilled workers who make important and independent decisions that enable people with developmental disabilities to live and work in the community.

What Does This Mean for the ~24,000 People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Who Receive DDA Licensed Community-Based Services?

- Difficulty finding qualified staff
- High staff turnover, resulting in too many changes in staff who help people with important and sometimes personal activities
- Negative impacts on employment of individuals with disabilities
- Negative impacts on families, who may have to leave work due to lack of staff coverage
- Potential threats to health and safety

What Does This Mean for the 5,000+ Marylanders with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who are on the DDA Waiting List?

- A long wait is at risk for becoming longer without enough qualified DSPs to provide services
- People are experiencing difficulties in finding providers of their choosing, due to the inadequate funding; those with the greatest needs are experiencing the most difficulty.

Members of the General Assembly: Please restore the DDA community services rate increase to 3.5% -- an additional \$15m in General Funds (\$28m total funds)