

Strengthening the iBudget Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services Waiver

- It is essential to include funding to meet the federal Department of Labor wage requirements in the regular base budget of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities and fund the growth of the iBudget program so that the Florida legislature can continue their commitment to transition individuals off the iBudget waitlist.

BACKGROUND

The Individual Budgeting Home and Community Based waiver administered by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities offers supports and services to assist over 34,000 individuals with developmental disabilities to live in the community by ensuring that their health and safety needs are met, as well as providing services to improve their access to their community and a meaningful life. There are 20,750 individuals on the waitlist for waiver services as of August 2017.



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ISSUE

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities continues to address the needs of persons with developmental disabilities who have come off of the waitlist over the past two years, re-structure cost plans for existing waiver recipients, and incorporate the cost of waiver growth for the individuals on the waiver. Changes that have led to growth include, but are not limited to; aging family caregivers and youth who are transitioning out of school and out of the Medicaid State Plan for children.

Funding was allocated during the 2017 legislative session to take individuals off the waitlist for the fifth time in eight years and a non-recurring allocation for provider rate increases due to the Department of Labor hourly wage requirements and a modest provider rate increase.

This year federal requirements and the cost of growth need to be covered to stabilize and strengthen the waiver system to ensure the capacity for individuals to be able to transition off the waitlist. With healthcare system changes being discussed at a federal level, preservation of critical services through the iBudget waiver is important. The iBudget waiver must be funded to absorb growth and Department of Labor requirements.