

2024

InterHab Advocacy Platform

2024 Legislative Focus Areas:

- Funds for continued progress in establishing fiscal stability for the IDD system via annual funding adjustments based on inflationary indexes.
- Funds to stop waiting list growth until the state's new Community Support Waiver can be implemented.
- Funding to pilot service elements that will be included in the state's Community Support Waiver.
- Additional funding to continue the development of behavioral health resources for the IDD system.
- Funds to assist providers in voluntarily transitioning from the federal 14(c) exemption from minimum wage.
- Significant enhancements to Supported Employment reimbursement.
- Revisions to KPERS benefit tiers.
- Exempt IDD service providers from sales tax related to residential costs including construction.
- Special legislative interim committee to examine human service workforce challenges.

Legislative action in recent years rescued the IDD service network from serious capacity erosion. Decades of underfunding, coupled with the devastating workforce challenges of the pandemic, necessitated significant investments to ensure that IDD service providers could continue to serve Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities already within the system. While legislative action stabilized the IDD system in the short term, it did not address increasingly challenging and diverse demands, including:

- *An unabated waiting list of more than 5,100 Kansas adults and children with IDD.*
- *Increasing numbers of Kansans with IDD who also need complex physical and behavioral health supports.*
- *Federally-driven policy that would necessitate significant redesign of the IDD system.*

IDD service providers are also subject to the larger economic and workforce impacts that every Kansas business must weather. However, IDD service providers cannot increase their prices to offset these pressures. Inflationary increases in the past two years carved into the progress the Legislature made on behalf of the IDD system. Workforce shortages negated the competitive ability of IDD service providers to recruit and retain vital direct care workers. Regular funding adjustments to the system are needed to offset these continued economic realities.

Left unfulfilled is the promise of a modernized IDD system that can more confidently meet the needs of our most vulnerable Kansans. Given the resources, we can do better. Legislative action to enable regular inflationary-based funding adjustments will ensure a strong foundation of service capacity. New tools, such as the Community Support Waiver, will allow for the ability to support Kansans with IDD in more diverse and efficient ways. New investments in employment services will allow more Kansans with IDD to explore community-based job opportunities than ever before. Streamlining of burdensome regulations and oversight will free the IDD system to better serve those it is responsible for. These steps, taken together, will place our state in position to meaningfully address the IDD waiting list for the first time in this century.

Please help us to build a system capable of meeting the needs of all Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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Additional Priorities

Reducing Barriers:

- Address earnings cap challenges for persons with IDD via increasing cap limits and improving the viability of ABLE accounts.
- Push for regulatory changes that better support the strengths and values of the IDD provider network.
- Advocate for the removal of the State Fire Marshal from the KDADS licensure process and urge that OSFM inspections respect the choice and rights of persons served.
- Retain pandemic-related relaxation of policies beneficial to the IDD system, including flexibility in background checks for employment, choice in service provision settings and reimbursement for provision of acute care support.
- Promote pragmatic, collaborative approaches to provider licensure.
- Encourage consistent application of oversight.
- Eliminate duplicative and contradictory processes that place unnecessary additional burdens and costs on the IDD system.
- Engage KDADS leadership in developing common sense approaches to CMS conflict of interest concerns.
- Advocate for increased accountability, transparency and oversight in KanCare processes, operations and outcomes.
- Push for clarification of the appeals process for persons supported within managed care.
- Support apportionment of tax revenues from legalization of medical marijuana to the IDD system.
- Promote conflict-free care management models used in other states.

Strengthening the Workforce:

- Explore the use of enabling technology that can assist in addressing workforce shortages.
- Promote the development of an education-based pipeline for recruitment of Direct Support Professionals.
- Partner in development of training and apprenticeship resources in order to professionalize the IDD workforce.
- Advocate for increased funding to bring wages for professional positions to fair market value.
- Support federal initiatives that would provide resources for strengthening the IDD workforce.

Improving Outcomes:

- Push for comprehensive transportation options.
- Improve the billing structure for TCM.
- Provide access to familiar caregivers for waiver recipients during critical health changes, including hospitalization.
- Advocate for significant MCO community reinvestment and alternative payment models to meaningfully address system challenges.
- Require MCOs to cover costs for out-of-state services due to lack of capacity in Kansas.

Stabilizing the System:

- Strengthen the CDDO system and advocate for additional resources to address identified funding deficiencies.
- Restore lost State Aid and SGF funds to address the needs of persons with IDD not on the waiver.
- Revise HCBS IDD Waiver to provide greater flexibility and support for service providers.
- Support funding increase to Family Service Coordination for KS Early Childhood Developmental Services providers.