

2025 Advocacy Platform

When the Kansas Legislature significantly adjusted funding for the IDD service network in 2022, it enabled provider organizations to better recruit and retain direct care workers. That 25% reimbursement rate increase for the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) IDD waiver was a lifeline to Kansas providers struggling during the worst workforce crisis in a generation.

Since 2022, inflationary increases have hit IDD service providers hard. Cost increases of over 13% in that time have eroded the progress made in 2022 and providers are once again struggling to hold on to their workforce. It is time to once again assist these providers by adjusting their funding to reflect increased costs.

2025 Legislative Focus Areas:

- Funds for continued progress in establishing the capacity necessary to support those currently in service as well as waiting list individuals. A 6.5% funding increase is needed to help offset increased costs to providers due to inflationary spikes since 2022 as well as growth in the system. Funding should include waiver-based services as well as TCM and CDDO administration.
- Annual funding adjustments based on rising business costs are also needed to ensure continued progress. Such funding increases should include waiver-based services as well as TCM and CDDO administration.
- Strategic approach to eliminating the IDD waiting list that builds on knowledge gained from efforts to bring 500 individuals into service in 2024 and data-informed planning that acknowledges the need for additional resources to address provider capacity and the increasingly complex needs of the population already in service.
- Resources to provide for the behavioral health needs of the IDD population, such as crisis stabilization and respite.
- Additional funding to continue progress in assisting providers voluntarily transitioning from usage of federal 14(c) exemptions from minimum wage.
- Legislative support of “full schedule” reimbursement to providers for Supported Employment services.
- Exempt IDD service providers from sales tax related to residential costs including construction.
- Special legislative interim committee to examine human service workforce challenges.
- Urge legislative intervention to prevent harmful system impacts due to KDADS approaches to CMS conflict of interest concerns, MFEI tool implementation, waiver revisions and HCBS Settings Final Rule.

It’s also time to recognize that a method of regular funding adjustments represents sound policy that will keep the IDD system on pace to continue providing quality services. Regular adjustments based on inflationary indexes would enable IDD service providers to properly plan for their organization’s workforce needs.

Important progress on the IDD waiting list must also be sustained via continued efforts to bring additional individuals into service. However, as more individuals enter the IDD service system, existing capacity will be stretched further. Legislators must account for capacity building needs in future efforts to address the waiting list.

The Kansas IDD population is more diverse in its complex service needs than ever before. Legislators must ensure that the policy aims of the State reflect and respect the needs of all Kansans with IDD—including those with complex service needs. The State is pursuing multiple large scale system change initiatives on accelerated timelines. These initiatives, if not implemented correctly, could disenfranchise thousands of Kansans with IDD who need the most help.

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



2025

Additional Priorities

Reducing Barriers:

- Push for regulatory changes that better support the strengths and values of the IDD provider network.
- Push for appropriate reimbursement of support provided in acute care settings.
- Promote practical application of provider licensure that acknowledges the requirements of federal mandates such as the Medicaid HCBS Settings Final Rule.
- Eliminate duplicative and contradictory processes that place unnecessary additional burdens and costs on the IDD system.
- Advocate for increased provider opportunities for value-based arrangements under KanCare 3.0.

Strengthening the Workforce:

- Explore the use of remote support technology that can assist in addressing workforce shortages and promote revisions to the IDD HCBS Waiver to better allow for such usage.
- Continue growth of training and registered apprenticeship resources in order to professionalize the IDD workforce.
- Advocate for increased funding to bring wages for professional positions to fair market value and offset increased costs due to multiple federal regulatory changes such as the federal Department of Labor overtime exempt rule.
- Promote development of an education-based pipeline for recruitment of Direct Support Professionals.

Stabilizing the System:

- Protect and promote the statutory provisions of the Kansas Developmental Disabilities Reform Act.
- Continue restoration of lost discretionary state funds to address the needs of persons with IDD not funded by the HCBS IDD Waiver.
- Provide continued support in securing needed resources for the KS Early Childhood Developmental Service network.

Improving Outcomes:

- Adequate funding for transportation services to meet the needs of individuals with IDD in living independent, inclusive lives.
- Advocate for enhanced funding for TCM as well as increased flexibility in reimbursement.
- Advocate for provider input and oversight of required MCO community reinvestment funding under KanCare 3.0.

Federal Initiatives:

- **H.R. 2941**
Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act – This bill would require that the Office of Management and Budget to consider adding a standard occupational classification for direct support professionals.
- **H.R. 7267**
Disability Community Act – This bill would add badly-needed Medicaid funding for the Kansas IDD service network.
- **H.R. 5408/S. 2767**
S.S.I. Savings Penalty Elimination Act – This bill would raise the asset limit from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individual Social Security benefits.
- **H.R. 6296/S.B. 3118**
The HCBS Relief Act—This bill proposes a FMAP increase of 10 percentage points for home and community-based services.