



# West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council

110 Stockton Street  
Charleston, WV 25387

## Some Pertinent I/DD Waiver Information

As of 1/31/17:

4,634 - slots approved by CMS

4,536 - individuals enrolled in program

1,276 - individuals on wait list for program

1,213 - individuals who have waited more than 90 days

18.5 - average number of individuals added monthly to wait list over last 6 months (Aug-Jan)

1,457 - days, or 4 years – longest time any individual has been on the wait list

1,310 – number of individuals using self-directed services

West Virginia has no state-operated institutions for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD). Only twelve other states and the District of Columbia can say the same.

WV does have 517 institutional beds in 68 facilities across the State for people with I/DD, operated by behavioral health provider agencies. They are called Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID). The average cost of care in these facilities in 2016 is reported by the Bureau for Medical Services to be \$10,206.04 per month, or \$122,472.48 per year.

“The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities,” Tenth Edition, 2015 (University of Colorado) ranks WV 11<sup>th</sup> among states in I/DD Waiver spending per capita in FY 2013. 4,492 individuals were supported at an average cost of \$74,686 per participant. (Table 14) The same report indicates that 2,544 of those individuals were supported in family settings at an average cost per participant of \$19,004. (Table 19)

Eight of the twelve highest ranked states in spending per capita for I/DD Waiver services were states that do not have any state institutions. In FY 2013 the average institutional cost per person in the four other states, which do have institutions, ranged from \$278,000 to \$603,000 per year. (Table 9)

No neighboring state is institution free, making any comparison to I/DD Waiver programs in those states invalid. The rankings of spending, per capita, for I/DD Waiver services are as follows: KY-26<sup>th</sup>; MD-18<sup>th</sup>; OH-24<sup>th</sup>; PA-15<sup>th</sup>; and VA-35<sup>th</sup>. (Table 14) The FY 2014 average institutional costs per person in those states were: KY-\$393,350; MD-\$395,381; OH-\$187,528; PA-\$378,016; and VA-\$316,940. (Table 9)



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According to the 2014 Census, WV ranked highest among states in prevalence of disability in adults 18 years of age or older (20.3%). The Census also indicates that 7.9% of the non-institutionalized population of WV has a cognitive disability. It might be expected that the state with the highest percentage of people with disabilities, and the highest percentage of people with cognitive disabilities specifically, would rank high in per capita spending on behalf of people with I/DD.

Other states may also offer various forms of support to families in addition to, or in lieu of, I/DD Waiver services such as Family Support programs. Funding for WV's Family Support program for people with I/DD was drastically cut two years ago.

Services provided by family members in their homes and communities are much less expensive than services provided by provider agencies to individuals who live in group settings. They are also less expensive than services provided in the home when those services are provided by agency personnel because the Medicaid approved rates for the same service provided by families are almost half the provider rates (\$10.96 vs. \$20.04). If a family member were to be paid to provide care 24 hours per day/365 days per year, the amount would equal \$96,010, which is 79% of the cost of ICF/IID institutional care (\$121,500). **Families are not paid to provide this amount of service.**

Families themselves can only provide Person-Centered Supports and Transportation services. Individuals who choose the self-directed option only have control over four services – Goods and Services, Person-Centered Support, Respite, and Transportation.

Besides saving money by paying family members, it is impractical to consider removing them from the mix due to the limited capacity of provider agencies in the State to find, obtain, and maintain qualified, reliable employees to provide needed services.

It is hard to imagine which of the current services offered by the program should not be provided. Transportation services in a rural state with very little public transportation, and none in most areas of the State, is a necessity. Employment related services, such as pre-vocational services, job development, and supported employment are necessary in a state that consistently ranks 49<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> in the employment of people with developmental disabilities. Various types of therapy services are a necessity for many individuals with developmental disabilities. Respite care for family member caregivers is essential for the well-being of the person served and the caregiver, yet the service has been drastically cut recently. Person-centered supports have been cut to the extent that parents, of school-aged children in particular, report to us they are worried about their ability to maintain employment.

Information compiled by the WV Developmental Disabilities Council  
Revised February 22, 2017