

## Protect Services for Missourians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)

**Priority:** No cuts to services for Missourians with IDD

**Relevant Bills:** HB2002 (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation), HB2010 (Division of Developmental Disabilities)

Missourians with IDD rely on community-based services every day to stay healthy, safe, and connected to their communities. Cutting these services harms families, weakens Missouri's workforce, and increases long-term costs for the state.

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## Why Protecting IDD Services Matters



### Health and Safety

People with significant disabilities depend on consistent, community-based supports for daily living, health, and safety. Reducing funding threatens health and safety health outcomes and increases the risk of crisis situations.



### This is the safety net

When community programs shrink or close, people use more expensive emergency rooms, hospitals, or institutional settings. There are no other options for community based care. There are no private or public insurance plans a family can purchase that provide these services.



### A Direct Support Workforce Shortage Already exists

Low wages are forcing experienced Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) out of the field. Rates are already too low to recruit enough DSPs, leading to staff shortages and service delays.



### Supporting people in the workforce

Day services empower your workforce, and cutting funding means caregivers are forced to reduce workforce participation, or leave the workforce all-together creating an economic ripple effect in your district.

**Every dollar invested in IDD services supports dignity, health, safety, independence, belonging, and a meaningful life in the community.**

# Supports and Services for Missourians with Developmental Disabilities

## Fostering Independence & Strengthening Communities

Missourians who have the most significant support needs who live in the community live in the community and rely on Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) waivers to remain there. These services include:

- Personal care and in-home supports
  - Employment and job coaching
  - Transportation
  - Mediation administration
  - Community engagement
  - Life-skills development
  - Independent living support
  - Management of chronic health conditions
- **Above all else, supporting personal safety**

## Community Supports Save Money and Grow the Economy

### Cost Savings

Community-based supports cost the state **2-3 times less** than institutional care

Investing in independence reduces long-term service needs and crisis costs

Day services and in-home supports allow parents to **stay in the workforce**

### Economic Impact

Approximately **\$1.6 billion** in state investment in DD waiver services (FY22-24)

Nearly **\$6 billion** generated for Missouri's economy

**33,000+** jobs supported annually

Every **\$1 invested generates \$3.81** in local economic activity

## Build a Strong Workforce

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are frontline workers who ensure the health, safety, and community inclusion of people with IDD.

However, Medicaid reimbursement rates have not kept pace with the true cost of providing services. That means:

- DSP wages remain low
- Recruitment and retention challenges persist
- Service waitlists continue to grow

Many Missourians with IDD are forced to remain in hospitals or intermediate care facilities while waiting for residential support, costing the state up to three times more than community services.



## The Bottom Line

Sustained investment in Missouri's HCBS system means:

- Stability for families
- A stronger, more reliable workforce
- Greater independence and meaningful lives for people with IDD
- Lower long-term costs for taxpayers



**Protecting these services keeps Missouri's communities strong and moving forward.**