

Biennial Proposals Related to Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) and Brain Injury



Paul Saucier, Director

DHHS Office of Aging and Disability
Services

Maine Coalition for Housing and
Quality Services Monthly Meeting

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OADS: What We Do

Mission

We promote the highest level of independence, health, and safety for older adults and adults with disabilities throughout Maine.

Participants and Costs in Sections 18, 20, 21 and 29 Grew During the Pandemic

- Members served grew by 9.4% from 2019 to 2022 (from 5,713 participants to 6,248)
- Expenditures in these programs grew by 21% between SFY 2019 and SFY 2022 (from \$472M to \$572M)
- Costs have risen faster than participants because:
 - Several rate increases were implemented during this period
 - Individual service caps were allowed to exceed regular policy during the pandemic

Recent Funding in SFY 2023

- \$5 million in one-time settings remediation grants to providers
- \$6 million in one-time COVID-related payment to group homes
- 8.2% permanent COLA increase across waivers on 1/1/23 (an increase from the 4.9% originally projected)

The Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget includes **\$84 Million** for Access to Disability Services

- **\$34M** to add 900 individuals to Section 29 by 2025 (50 per month)
- **\$3M** to continue reserve capacity in Section 21
- **\$42M** for future cost-of-living rate increases in Sections 18, 20, 21, 29, Intermediate Care Facilities (Section 50) and PNMI-Fs (Section 97)
- **\$5M** to launch Lifespan and enroll 540 individuals in 2025
- For more details, see our [Disability Budget Blog](#)

Lifespan Bill (not yet printed)

- Establishes a stakeholder group to advise on design and implementation
- Establishes goals for the Lifespan waiver
 - **Flexibility Across the Lifespan.** Provide home and community-based supports that can change over the lifespan as a member and the member's natural supports get older, without needing to move from one waiver program to another;
 - **Seamless Transitions.** Expand upon the Department's current childhood-to-adulthood transition initiatives by including children starting at either 14 or 16 years, with eligibility age to be decided in consultation with stakeholders, and enable smooth transitions at later life stages;
 - **Early Planning for Independence.** Emphasize in-home supports, independent living skills and employment services for youth to prepare them for as much independence as possible in adulthood;
 - **Innovation.** Include service innovations currently under development, such as tiered shared living, enhanced medical and behavioral health supports, self-direction, innovative employment supports, independent living options and remote support technology, including models of support that can be successfully implemented with a smaller workforce; and
 - **Simplified and Effective Payment Methods.** Include alternative payment models to promote quality and efficiency and reduce administrative burden for service providers and the Department.
- Establishes transition provisions for existing participants and programs
- See our [Lifespan web page](#) for more, including plain language description

Licensing and Autism Definition Bill: LD 449

- Enables the Department to update the definition of Autism Spectrum Disorder to align with the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM)
- Authorizes DHHS to modernize IDD and Brain Injury licensing for:
 - **Consistency.** Currently, the Department licenses group homes of all sizes. Authority to license homes with 3 or more beds is clear in statute, but licensing for one- and two-bed homes is not. The Department does not currently license other critical areas, such as community support services and work supports, where the same need for standards exist.
 - **Relevance to the People Supported.** Currently, these residential services are licensed under the Assisted Housing program. This means that a small group home for individuals with intellectual disability is treated similarly to a large memory care center for older adults or a PNMI-C for adults with significant medical needs.
 - **Integration with the HCBS Global Rule.** Any actual or perceived conflicts will be addressed in new licensing rules to ensure alignment of HCBS policy for clarity and effectiveness.
 - **Efficiency.** Currently, a separate license must be issued for each residential site operated by an agency. Instead, the Department proposes to license agencies. An agency would have one license for its IDD services, for example, with multiple locations and/or services listed on the license.

Questions?