

LIFEWORKS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Lifeworks
A nonprofit serving
people with disabilities

1. PREVENT A PROPOSED 7 PERCENT RATE CUT

Reimbursement rates set by the state pay for the vast majority of services and staff support people with disabilities need to live, work, and enjoy life in the community.

A proposed 7 percent federal rate cut from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services may take place beginning July 1, 2018.

This would be devastating for people with disabilities, resulting in the loss of millions of dollars needed for providing high-quality services and paying competitive wages to direct support professionals who care for them.

The Minnesota Legislature can stop the 7 percent rate cut and solidify the rate adjustment process.

Proposed legislation: SF 2889 - Utke & HF 3191 - Schomacker

2. MAINTAIN EXTENDED EMPLOYMENT PROVIDER RATE INCREASES

In 2017, providers were promised an increase of \$2 million in fiscal year 2018-2019 and an increase of \$4 million in fiscal year 2020-2021.

Maintaining these rate increases is necessary because they have not kept pace with the rate of inflation since 2007.

These rate increases are essential to continuing to provide high-quality services, meeting the needs of unserved and underserved populations, paying for employer-related costs, and addressing increased costs associated with the implementation of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and other external changes.

Without these rate increases, waiting lists will grow longer, fewer people will have access to services, and people may become more isolated instead of connected to their communities.



3. INCREASE WAGES FOR PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS

Personal care attendants, especially those who provide support to individuals with significant medical and support needs, are in high demand. Many people who need support are unable to find consistent, high-quality staff members.

Increasing wages by 10 percent for PCAs who provide 10 or more hours of support per day to those with significant needs will help attract and retain qualified individuals.

Currently, PCAs receive the same level of pay for assisting those who need a few hours of service per day as they do for those with more specialized and intensive needs.

Proposed legislation: SF 393 - Relph & HF 481 - Kiel

4. INCREASE ACCESS TO CONSUMER DIRECTED COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Consumer Directed Community Supports allows people with disabilities to self-direct their funding. By investing in training and education for people with disabilities, families, and county staff and expanding access to CDCS, individuals who live in child or adult foster care will be able to increase self-direction and make meaningful choices about the services they receive.

Expanding access to CDCS information and education will help individuals with disabilities and their families take ownership of important decisions about services and supports, increasing flexibility and choice.

How to Get Involved

Take action and get involved now by contacting your senator, representative, and Governor Dayton, making them aware of this decision, and asking them to take action to support the proposed legislation noted above.

Find Your Representatives

Visit bit.ly/MinnReps

The information contained in this document is courtesy of The Arc Minnesota, Best Life Alliance, and MOHR.

