



Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services 2017 Legislative Priorities

Any cut to provider rates is going to cost Missouri jobs.

- Funding for provider rates is necessary to continue essential services that provide Missouri's most vulnerable citizens supports that ensure everything from basic health and safety like bathing, toileting, to support allowing them to continue their employment. The already underfunded providers struggle to find qualified employees and will have to make cuts in personnel. Family members who will have to remain home to provide care themselves in the absence of available staffing, will be at risk of losing their jobs.

People with developmental disabilities want to work.

- The majority of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are either unemployed or underemployed - the percentage of working-age people with disabilities in the labor force is about one-third that of persons without a disability.
- Missouri's "Employment First" focus is critical for individuals who want to be employed to have opportunities in the workforce and be productive citizens with integrated employment as the first option offered to individuals with I/DD.
- People need flexibility to move in and out of sheltered employment based upon the needs and choices of each individual. Eliminate barriers so people with developmental disabilities have flexibility to participate in community employment without losing options for returning to sheltered employment.
- Missouri needs a comprehensive continuum of training and employment options for individuals with disabilities that does not inhibit people from transitioning through the necessary steps to obtain and maintain community employment. Missouri needs to create a system for employment for individuals with developmental disabilities with no wrong doors.
- Incentivize businesses to employ people with developmental disabilities at or above minimum wage.
- Support pilot sites where Vocational Rehabilitation, DESE, and DMH can easily collaborate and expedite the employment of individuals in the community at minimum wage or above.

Managed Medicaid does not work successfully for persons with developmental disabilities and would destroy the current system that is meeting needs and has eliminated waitlists.

- A Medicaid managed care model is not cost effective for DD services. In other states, administrative costs have actually risen; services have been reduced; and waiting lists have lengthened. The system works better when DD services remain carved out.

Missouri needs to fully fund case management for individuals with developmental disabilities who are not eligible for Medicaid to prevent costly services in the future.

- 25% of Missouri's most vulnerable citizens do not have Medicaid and are at risk of losing the minimal supports they currently receive through case management.



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