

Reducing growth to preserve access to disability services

To mitigate the impact on people with disabilities, the Governor's budget avoids blunt measures that have been tried before to contain costs.

Challenge

Minnesota has a long history of providing Home and Community Based Services that support people with disabilities to live in the community. However, in recent years, state costs for these services have been growing at an unsustainable pace, due to inflation, rate increases, demographic changes and unexpectedly high use of services.

Proposal

The budget includes a variety of strategies that will help preserve access to disability services while containing the growth in costs.

One proposal limits rate exceptions in the Disability Waiver Rate System and strengthens oversight to ensure the effective use of resources.

Other recommendations include reducing the absence and utilization factor for day services, a component built into disability services rates that account for unplanned individual absences; capping the allowable daily hours of individualized home supports with training services; and establishing a new asleep payment rate for staff who provide overnight supervision in people's homes.

The budget also limits inflationary adjustments for disability services to 2% a year. This includes the Brain Injury, Community Access for Disability Inclusion, Community Alternative Care and Developmental Disabilities waivers.

Why It's Important

The budget recommendations avoid blunt measures that have been tried before to contain costs, such as limiting how many people can get disability waivers or cutting rates across the board. Instead, it uses multiple strategies to minimize the impact on people with disabilities.

Limiting rate exceptions addresses a large source of spending growth in disability waiver services. Stronger oversight will support equity and consistency in care by ensuring that providers are meeting the needs of the people they're serving, and that people are receiving the level of services and supports identified in their plans.

Reducing the absence and utilization factor for day services will bring the factor in line with other service formulas in state law. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Health and Human Services recommended this change in 2020.

Limiting individualized home support with training services to eight hours a day will ensure that these services focus on training and skill-building. Implementing a new asleep rate for night supervision services will align with other services that employ staff for asleep overnight shifts.

Capping inflation adjustments for disability waiver services at 2% will make it possible for the state to budget while maintaining the quality of services. The cap may impact people with disabilities if lower future rates make it harder to attract and retain direct care workers.

For More Information

[Reduce Disability Waiver Growth: DWRS Rate Exceptions and Input Monitoring](#)

[Reduce Disability Waiver Growth: Day and Unit Based Services](#)

[Reduce Disability Waiver Growth: Cap Inflationary Adjustments](#)

[Governor's Budget Recommendations for Human Services](#)