

Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD)

Key Updates for the Legislative Health & Human Services Committee

Intellectual or Developmental Disability (IDD) is a broad term that refers to conditions that begin in childhood and are characterized by limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, which covers a range of everyday social and practical skills.

Common Characteristics of IDD

- ✓ Difficulty with communication, learning, or memory
- ✓ Challenges with social skills and self-care
- ✓ Need for support in daily living activities
- ✓ May vary from mild to profound in severity

To qualify for a waiver, individuals with IDD must meet medical and financial eligibility.

- Must qualify for Medicaid, and
- Have an Intellectual Disability, onset by age 18 or
- A specific related condition (Cerebral Palsy, Autistic Disorder, Down Syndrome, Epilepsy, etc.) and
- Have significant limitations in at least 3 areas of major life activities, these life activities include self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency) that began prior to age 22.



State I/DD agencies serve more than **1.5 million** children and adults annually

Diagnosis typically associated with IDD include but not limited to:

- Down Syndrome
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Cerebral Palsy
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)
- Global Developmental Delay
- And more

DDSD oversees six programs for children and adults with IDD:

- Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DDW)
- Mi Via Self Directed Waiver (MVW)
- Medically Fragile Waiver (MFW)
- Supports Waiver (SW)
- Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IDD)
- State General Funds (SGF)

Waiver Service Utilization, FY25

- Living Supports (DDW): **3,804**
- Living Supports (MV): **2,572**
- Community Access/Integration/Support (DDW): **3,278**
- Community Member Supports (MVW): **3,280**
- Physical Therapy (DDW): **1,747**
- Occupational Therapy (DDW): **1,668**
- Speech Language Pathology (All Waivers): **2,307**
- Specialized Medical Equipment (MFW): **153**

Waiver Enrollment, FY25

| Waiver | Active Recipients |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| DDW | 4,825 (55%) |
| MVW | 3,647 (42%) |
| MFW | 207 (approx. 2%) |
| SW | 184 (approx. 1%) |
| Total | 8,551 (100%) |

Mi Via Self-Directed Waiver

- Self-direction is a service delivery model that allows individuals to have choice and control over the services and supports they receive, including the ability to hire, train, and manage their own care providers based on their unique needs and preferences. The Mi Via Waiver is DDSD's self-directed waiver.

Waiver Budgets

FY 2025 Waiver Budget Total: \$786,181,006.91

- **DDW: \$524,155,079.49**
- **MVW: \$258,352,549.65**
- **MFW: \$3,477,773.81**
- **SW: \$195,603.96**

Average Annual Budget per Waiver recipient:

- **DDW: \$108,633.18**
- **MVW: \$70,839.74**
- **MFW: \$16,800.84**
- **SW: \$1,063.18**

Health & Wellness Visits

- Each waiver recipient is visited by a DDSD or DHI staff member biannually.
- Health & Wellness Visits were implemented in 2023 per Governor to strengthen abuse, neglect, and exploitation identification and prevention.

In FY25 alone, DDSD has completed over 14,400 visits

To date, DDSD has conducted over 30,000 visits

New and Emerging Challenges

- Provider and Direct Support Professional shortage across the nation, including New Mexico
 - High turnover is difficult for agencies and waiver recipients
- Due to elimination of waitlist, waivers now serving more children
 - Historically waivers served adults, adjusting to unique needs of children
- Behavioral and mental health needs
 - IDD + mental health conditions outpace available supports and trained professionals

Approximately 66% of budgetary allotments are for DDW recipients.

MVW recipients' budgets are 34% lower than DDW recipients.

LRI & Relatives as Paid Staff

- A Legally Responsible Individual (LRI) is a person who has a duty under state law to care for another person; typically includes: the parent of a minor child (biological, legal, or adoptive), or spouse.
- LRIs and relatives can serve as paid staff for some waiver recipients services:
 - Family Living
 - Customized In Home Supports
 - Customized Community Supports
 - Community Integrated Employment
 - Respite Services

DDSD Partners

- Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)
- NM Caregivers Coalition
- Governor's Commission on Disability Services
- University of NM Center for Development and Disability
- National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)
- Supported Employment Leadership Network (SELN)
- Association of Developmental Disabilities Community Providers (ADDCP)

