



Service Providers Association for Developmental Disabilities

A summary of legislative goals for 2018

SPADD is an inclusive association of private and public providers of community-based service to individuals with disabilities. SPADD's mission is to improve services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Georgia. To accomplish this mission, SPADD focuses on educating the provider community on best practices in the field, advocacy, and education regarding public policy.

2018 PRIORITIES

RATE INCREASE FOR DAY SERVICES, SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT & SUPPORT COORDINATION

These critical services ensure that those with I/DD have the opportunity to work and participate in their communities with jobs and/or meaningful, engaging activities. Georgians with I/DD also benefit from high quality support coordination to assist in the achievement of individual goals.

None of these waiver services received a funding increase based on the 2016 rate study. The rates for these vital supports have not seen any meaningful adjustment for many years.

SPADD is requesting a 5% rate increase (cost: \$5.8M). This will cement the sustainability of these three waiver services, ensuring direct support staff wages are competitive to retain personnel in these crucial support roles.



A 5% rate in crease is needed to adequately fund Day Services, Supported Employment, and Support Coordination for Georgians with I/DD.

ROOM & BOARD SUPPLEMENT (HOUSING SUBSIDIES)

Individuals with I/DD are disproportionately impacted by the high cost of housing. They generally rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to fund their housing (room and board) expenses.

The average amount of SSI funds available to individuals to support this expense is \$670 per month to support rent, utilities, food, transportation and all the other incidental expenses we all incur in supporting our household.

This amount does not afford Georgians with I/DD the opportunity to live in communities that are safe, socially active, and offer healthy food choices and reliable transportation.

SPADD is requesting \$200 per SSI recipient to close the gap between the current SSI income amount and minimal affordable housing costs.



SSI covers only 77% of current minimal affordable housing costs for Georgians with I/DD, leaving a 23% gap for them to somehow make up on their own.

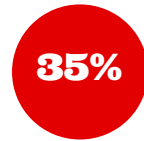
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Annual turnover rates for direct support professionals is 35% or more. This is a national, well-documented, chronic problem.

Rapid turnover of direct support professionals negatively impacts the quality of care that Georgians with I/DD receive, hinders the achievement of desired outcomes, and is extremely costly to I/DD providers who must divert financial resources from those in service to assuage personnel turnover.

Georgia must study this issue and determine viable means to reduce turnover while enhancing the quality of life of people with I/DD, the elderly and others who rely on this workforce for daily care and support.

SPADD is seeking the appointment of a Study Committee to address the long term care workforce shortage.



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OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES



Regulatory Oversight Burden

In 2015, HR 767 created the House Study Committee on Community Based Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services. Due to time constraints, the Committee was unable to complete all its work, particularly on the issue of community I/DD service regulation. I/DD providers endure multiple layers of costly administrative audits, compliance reviews, service monitoring, quality assessments, and 15 other duplicate certifications. The committee intended to undertake a study of these conditions, needs, issues, and problems and recommend any action or legislation deemed necessary or appropriate. SPADD supports the completion of this important work.



Waiting List for Supports

Currently, approximately 8,700 Georgians with I/DD are not receiving Medicaid Waiver funded supports because they have been placed on a waiting list. SPADD urges the Legislature to invest in a meaningful number of Waivers to ensure those who have languished on waiting lists for years will finally receive the support they need. Absent Waiver services and supports, the promise of all that Georgia offers its citizens bypasses those with I/DD. They've waited 7 to 10 years or more, in some cases, and many live with aging caregivers.

## 2017-18 SPADD MEMBERS

Advantage Behavioral Health	Diversified Enterprises	Mineral Springs
Albany ARC	Douglas County Resource Alliance	Mitchell Baker Service Center
Altrus	Easter Seals of Southern Georgia	Murray County Developmental Center
Annandale Village	Easter Seals West Georgia, Inc.	Network Day Service Center
ARC of Carroll County	Enable	New Horizons CSB
ASPIRE BHDD (Albany Area CSB)	Extra Special People	Open Hearts PCH
Avita Community Partners	Frazier Center	Orange Grove Center
Benchmark Human Services	Friends of L'Arche Atlanta	Paulding Enterprises
Briggs and Associates	Georgia Community Support and Solutions	People Making Progress
Brightstar Homes and Services	Georgia Learning Community	Penfield Christian Homes
Burnt Mountain Center	Georgia Options	Pineland CSB
Complete Care at Home	Georgia Support Services	Putman Jasper Support Services
Carroll County Training Ctr.	Green Oaks Center	Rescare
Chanan Foundation	Griffin Area Resource Center	RHA
Child Enrichment	Hi Hope	River Edge CSB
Choices of Change	Hope Haven	Rutledge Center
Coastal Center for Developmental Services	Jessamine Place	Serenity Behavioral Health Systems
Cobb/Douglas CSB	Jewish Family and Career Svc	Soto Assisted Living Group, Inc.
Columbus Community Services	Kaleidoscope (Highland Rivers CSB)	STAR Choices
Comfort Zone PCH	Kay Community Service Center	Steve Corder
Community Living Solutions	KES, Inc.	Sunrise Community of GA
Compass Coordinators	Key Foundation, Inc.	Supported Employment Specialists
Cornerstone Medical Staffing	Lowndes Advocacy Resource Center (LARC)	Thomas Grady Center
Creative Consulting Services	Lutheran Services of Georgia, Inc.	UCP of Georgia
Creative Enterprises	Lynndale, Inc	Unison
Cross Plains Community Partner	Marion Curry	Volunteers of America Georgia
Dekalb CSB	Mary Hall Freedom House	Wilkinson Service Center
DeRiche Agency, Inc.	Mentor	Woodright Industries
Destiny's Child Inc.		WOW in Sync
Developmental Disabilities Ministries		

## LEARN MORE



### Who we are

SPADD represents over 100 community organizations supporting over 8000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Georgia. SPADD members employ approximately 10,000 Georgians.



### What we do

SPADD focuses on educating the I/DD provider community on best practices in the field, advocacy, and education regarding public policy.



### Reach out

For more information on SPADD's legislative agenda, contact Diane Wilush [dwilush@ucpga.org](mailto:dwilush@ucpga.org), Angela Easter [aeaster@ucpga.org](mailto:aeaster@ucpga.org), Cindy Shepherd [cindy1shepherd@aol.com](mailto:cindy1shepherd@aol.com), or Julianna McConnell [julimccconnell@bellsouth.net](mailto:julimccconnell@bellsouth.net).

# spadd

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