



Direct Support Professional Workforce Crisis

Without significant investment in the DSP workforce, people with I/DD and their families will continue to lose access to needed options and resources as providers close.

spadd

Service Providers Association
for Developmental Disabilities

SPADD Recommendations

\$15/hr down payment

SPADD recommends a legislative rate increase in the 2023 session as a good faith down payment on what the rate study will reveal, with rates to support the entry wage to be at least \$15. **While we do not believe \$15 is the correct wage, it is a start.**

6.2% increase

SPADD is working with the DBHDD to determine what the exact cost would be, but we calculate the percentage increase at **approximately 6.2% for FY 2024.**

Full Funding

SPADD recommends that for FY 2025 (in the 2024 session) that the rate study be **fully funded in its entirety, not in piecemeal and not in phases.** Almost none of the current rates have ever been studied and determined valid. It is time we make commitment to fund the actual costs (like we do for nursing homes) of supporting this population.

A companion piece of legislation, which SPADD strongly suggests be a recommendation from this committee, is one that would have **community based supports receive the same sort of rate consideration annually as nursing homes.** IDD supports need a COLA either annually or biennially to ensure a well-resourced system.

Supporting Rationale:



CMS requires that States **review waiver service payment methodologies and rates every five years** to ensure the rates are sufficient to maintain an adequate provider base qualified to deliver services. To meet compliance, more than half of states (26 of 47) report annual or biennial payment rate updates using CPI or other measures (matching the Social Security increase, for example).

Contract Review

SPADD recommends an **thorough review of the Beacon contract (ASO).** Specifically, the review should include a look at performance for all work for IDD services, including: IDD Connects, provider number approvals, processing Prior Approvals, and total system effectiveness for service to the I/DD population and their providers.



Housing Subsidies

Housing subsidies are vital to assure that Georgia citizens with I/DD can live in their communities of choice in affordable housing. **GA previously funded a \$400/mo room and board subsidy,** but it has been gone for about 20 years. The maximum SSI benefit is \$841/mo. Regardless of the setting, who among us could live on \$10,000 a year? State funds should be allocated each year to **support the room and board supplement** for people who solely receive SSI and live outside their family home.



For more information, contact:

Diane Wilush / dwilush@ucpga.org

Cindy Shepherd / cindy1shepherd@gmail.com

Juliana McConnell / julimccConnell@icloud.com