

# The Intellectual Disabilities and Autism (ID/A) community needs your support.

Governor Shapiro proposed an urgently needed investment of \$217 million for an immediate increase in state set fee schedule rates and \$34 million to serve people with an ID/A currently on the emergency waiting list. **Families in your legislative district are counting on your support!**

**5,999**

Pennsylvanians with an ID/A who are on the emergency waiting list\*

**7,248**

Pennsylvanians with an ID/A who will need services within 2-5 years

**13,247**

Pennsylvanians with an ID/A in total on the Medicaid waiting list for services\*

## This proposed increased funding in the 2024-25 state budget will:

- Move an additional 1,500 people off the emergency waiting list and receive needed services
- Stabilize the ID/A system, which is in crisis
- Enable service providers to recruit and retain highly trained direct support professionals (DSPs) to provide critically needed services



***“Caring for those who can’t care for themselves is the very foundation of a decent society, and a decent commonwealth.”***

*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette editorial, Feb. 14, 2024*

# DSPs help keep Pennsylvania families together.

## There are thousands of Pennsylvania families who are full-time caregivers for their loved ones.

Many family caregivers are single parents, grandparents or elderly parents who are fearful of what will happen if they are no longer able to care for their loved one. Cindy Jennings, her son Matthew and Matthew's grandmother Judy Smith are one such family. They feel fear, despair and frustration every single day.

At the same time, service providers are closing programs or reducing the number of people they can serve. **These decisions also impact families.** DSPs provide the care and the services that allow individuals with ID/A to remain at home or in their community. Without these services, some individuals with ID/A, ultimately, will have to live in a nursing home or hospital.



*Pictured left to right: Judy Smith, Matthew Jennings and Cindy Jennings watch Gov. Josh Shapiro give the 2024-25 budget address on Feb. 6.*

**Without DSPs, families are left to provide services on their own and possibly quit their jobs, which puts additional stress on the family economy.**



### Your support is needed! Please support the following for the ID/A community in the 2024-25 budget:

- A long overdue rate increase to help retain DSPs
- \$266 million in federal funding and \$217 million in state funding to increase resources for providers of home and community-based services
- \$34.2 million in Community Waiver and \$1.85 million in the Community Base Program, which will allow DHS to expand the number of individuals participating in home and community-based service programs
- \$934,000 to add American Sign Language and English interpreter services to programs serving those with ID/A to ensure equality in communication services

