

FACT SHEET

Increase the Rate for Night Services

What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate \$10.1 million in the State General Fund to cover a \$5.00 increase in the rate for night services to match the current day rate within home- and community-based waivers for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Background Information:

Some individuals with disabilities need and are approved to receive support from a Direct Support Professional (DSP) overnight. For these services to be approved and obtained by the recipient, a Plan of Care with a documented need from the Support Coordinator must be documented in the provider's service plan.

Nearly 3,000 waiver recipients statewide, including those in self-direction, use nighttime services. Unfortunately, the Night Rate (\$13.52) is \$5.00 less an hour than the day rate (\$18.52). Due to this disparity, providers and families enrolled in self-direction are struggling to provide this needed service, placing undue hardship on individuals with disabilities and their families who are left without needed support.

Why Do This?

The cost of providing night services is higher than that of day services, especially when it comes to DSP wages. Finding a DSP willing to work overnight hours is very difficult without paying them significantly higher wages. In fact, many industries offer night workers differential pay.

Ensuring individuals with disabilities, especially those with complex medical and behavioral needs, have a DSP at night allows them the opportunity to remain safe in their homes and out of more costly institutional settings. A few reasons why this is a necessary service for some individuals are:

- To assist individuals who require turning and repositioning throughout the night to prevent and relieve pressure sores.
- To help individuals with mobility issues get in and out of bed and to and from the restroom.
- To help some individuals who require assistance with medication during the night.
- To ensure that those who may have a behavioral disorder who tend to wander or elope have a DSP there to keep them safe and out of dangerous situations.

