



## INVEST IN PEOPLE INCREASE WAIVER RATES & DIRECT SUPPORT WORKER PAY

### WHAT CAN LEGISLATORS DO

LDH needs to use clear rate-setting methods for HCBS waivers

Increasing rates **AND** DSW pay will strengthen the workforce and improve health outcomes

### WHY THIS MATTERS

Louisiana's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live in their communities, not institutions.

Direct Support Workers (DSWs) provide the daily support that makes community living possible.

Today, low funding and outdated payment rates are creating a workforce crisis that puts these services—and the people who rely on them—at risk.

### WHY ACTION IS NEEDED

- Rates don't cover real costs. Providers struggle to operate
- Some stop serving people with higher needs or close altogether
- Workers are leaving. DSW pay is too low, and Louisiana ranks among the lowest in the nation
- Staff shortages disrupt services. People may miss care or lose trusted workers who are like family
- Families fill the gaps. Many cut back work hours or leave jobs to provide unpaid care

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) completed a study to review HCBS waiver rates. About **\$53.6 M** in state general funds would:

- Increase the individual and family support rate to from \$18.50 to **\$21.20**
- Raise the DSW wage floor from \$9 to **\$11.48**

