



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF MEDICAID BUSINESS AND POLICY  
*Bureau of Developmental Services*

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March 6, 2017

The Honorable Frank Byron, Chairman  
Finance, Division III  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: Request for Additional Information – DHHS Bureau of Developmental Services

Dear Representative Byron:

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide an overview of programs and services as an introduction to our SFY18-19 budget. During our session on February 27 and 28, 2017, requests were made for additional information, which we are providing to you below.

1. In reference to Accounting Unit 9300 – 7013 (Family Support), budget page 943, Family Support and how increasing and investing funds for Family Support could potentially save the State of New Hampshire money?

RESPONSE: New Hampshire was the first state in the nation to enact Family Support legislation in 1989. This was at the time of that Laconia State School was in the process of closing. There was recognition that if families did not receive the support they needed, the result would be an increased need for out of home services. New Hampshire's Developmental Services System provides Family Support, including respite care, case management, connections to generic community support services, funding for vehicle and environmental modifications such as wheelchair van adaptations, ramps and lifts to assist families whose child or adult son/daughter have a developmental disability and live at home with their family. More than 5,000 families benefit from this service statewide and more than 80% of individuals served through the developmental services system live with their families. The care provided by families is critical to reducing the need for more costly day habilitation and residential services. Children and adults of all ages with Developmental Disabilities and who live at home with their families benefit from Family Support Services.

There are currently 574 individuals served by the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS), age 40 years or older living with their families and not yet receiving residential services on the Developmental Disability Waiver. These families choose to have their adult child/family member living with them and this is a significant savings to the State of New Hampshire. The average adult, requiring supervision and support, living with their family receives day habilitation and respite services. The average cost of this is \$35,000/year. In turn, the same

person who does not live with their family will require day habilitation and residential services in the range of \$75,000-\$125,000/year.

If funding for Family Support was removed, I would conservatively estimate, based on my experience and knowledge, that 1/3 of the caregiving families would be unable to continue to care for their adult family member. This may be due to work responsibilities, their own health, or they may be caring for a spouse (as the age here is adults with disabilities age 40 and over).

1/3 of the 574 people age 40 and over or 191 individuals, who currently live with their families at an average cost of \$35,000/year, for a total cost of \$6,685,000/year in total funds. The same group of 191, due to a lack of Family Support funds are now not living with their families, at an average cost of \$100,000 for day and residential services will now cost the State of New Hampshire \$19,100,000/year in total funds, an increase of \$12,415,000/year. In addition to the financial cost, I am not confident that the area agencies and providers currently have the capacity for this increase of people requiring additional services, due to workforce shortages.

Providing families access to home and vehicle modifications enable families to keep their children living at home with them, attending their local schools, participating in community activities, receiving their care and support from their family.

For example, a one-time modification to a family home may cost \$30,000 in total funds, yet without the modification, the child could no longer live at home and the cost to serve the child out of home is approximately \$156,479/year in total funds.

When I look at the children on the In-Home Support Waiver, which is a low-cost service to enable children to remain at home with their family, Family Support is an essential complement to this waiver. If I look at the children on this waiver, who receive the highest end of funding on this waiver, \$20,000-\$30,000/year, which are 20% of those children served. In FY 2016, 418 children were served on this waiver. 20% or 83 children were in the higher 1/3 of funding. For this group, I am going to use the same logic as above and estimate that 1/3 of the families of children, 28; in this category could no longer care for their children at home. Using the average cost of this higher need group of children at \$25,000/year, this group of 28 costs the State of New Hampshire \$700,000/year on the In-Home Support Waiver. This same group to be served in a residential setting would cost the State of New Hampshire \$4,381,412/year an increase of \$3,681,412 total funds/year. Again, the concern about provider capacity occurs with this group of children and is actually a greater concern due to some of the medical and behavioral challenges the children on this waiver have.

Failure to continue to fund Family Support activities will significantly impact individuals, families, and other state and social service programs in the following ways:

- Increased caregiver stress, including physical and emotional strain for families who are unable to access respite care or environmental modification services.
- Families whose respite care needs are met are more likely to continue their caregiving roles beyond age 21, resulting in significant cost savings for the State of New Hampshire. There is no legal obligation for families to continue in the caregiving role once their child turns age 18.

March 6, 2017

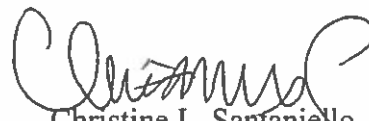
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- Families whose support needs are not met may seek more costly nursing facility or out of home residential services.
2. In reference to the information provided on the range of the cost of services through BDS for those served on the Developmental Disability Waiver.

RESPONSE:

- a. 32% of the budgets are \$25,000 or less. Typically these are for people who live with their families or independently. They receive minimal support from the area agency in the areas of Service Coordination and support to live and/or work independently. People served in this category typically do not require 24/7 supervision, but require services to maintain their independence.
- b. 24% of the budgets range from \$25,000-\$50,000. These are for people who need increased support and supervision, but because of the level of support they have from their family, they only receive day habilitation services from the area agency. Many people in this category require 24/7 supervision, but the family takes on the majority of this responsibility.
- c. 30% of the budgets are in the \$50,000-\$100,000 range. People in this category, require 24/7 supervision and the majority are receiving day habilitation and residential services in an Enhanced Family Care model (adult foster care). There are some people who have significant behavioral support needs in this category who are living with their family with staff support. Individuals in this range, if they were not living with either an Enhanced Family Care provider or natural family with increased supports would have budgets in the next category.
- d. 14% of the budgets are over \$100,000. These are for people who require 24/7 staff support out of a natural and/or foster home. This may be due to increased medical needs, behavioral support needs, offending behavior, have involvement in the criminal justice system, or have dangerous behaviors (self-injurious or assault).

Sincerely,



Christine L. Santaniello

Director

Bureau of Developmental Services

