

DSPD Waivers

Summary

Providing Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) through a 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver is a fundamental tool for people with disabilities of all ages to live, work, and participate in integrated settings of their choosing. These supports and services make personal care, employment, health and safety, transportation and other community living services possible for people with developmental disabilities.

In 2018, at the legislature's request, the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) studied a 1915(c) Limited Supports Waiver (LSW) to help people who are Medicaid eligible receive services earlier as they await placement in LTSS. An LSW is a capped set of HCBS options to meet a person's needs. The LSW offers person-centered services that can be self-directed. Services options include personal assistance and technologies appropriate for each individual. Services should assist the person to access the community in the most inclusive and integrated setting.¹

Key Points

- Without the availability of LTSS, many people with disabilities are not able to work, live, participate, and contribute in their community. Almost 75% of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities do not receive LTSS.²
- Based on expected population growth, it is estimated that 105,600 people would qualify for DSPD services by the year 2030. In addition to the individuals currently in services, an estimated 27,206 qualified Utahns with disabilities could potentially apply for these services³
- In a recent waiting list management study, DSPD proposed two levels of new waivers targeting varying levels of based on need that offer flexibility of service and increase efficiencies in services.
- The Limited Supports Waiver reduces the expected system cost to \$315M over 10 years. If the system remains unchanged, the cost to fully fund support of 27,206 new individuals over 10 years is approximately \$629M.

¹ *Olmstead v. L. C.* 527 U.S. 581 (1999).

² Braddock, D., Hemp, R., Rizzolo, M.C., Tanis, E.S. Haffer, L., & Wu, J. (2015) *The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Emerging from the Great Recession*. Washington, DC: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

³ Utah Department of Human Services Division of Services for People with Disabilities & Utah Department of Health Medicaid. (2018) *Waiting List Management Strategies: Report for Social Services Appropriation Subcommittee*.

- Wraparound case management in the LSW supports integrated care planning and results in lower social service⁴ and healthcare⁵ costs over time.
- Of the estimated 27,206 people, 21,574 are anticipated to be children and the remaining 5,632 are adults. Prevention services are vital given the high proportion of children.
- At the end of FY19, there were 3,286 people waiting for ongoing DSPD services. The growth between FY15 and FY19 was 63%.

⁴ Beth Stroul, *Return on Investment in Systems of Care for Children With Behavioral Health Challenges: A Look at Wraparound*, The TA Telescope (Winter 2015), available at <https://nwi.pdx.edu/pdf/WrapROI.pdf>.

⁵ Zachary Pruitt et al., *Expenditure Reductions Associated with a Social Service Referral Program*, 21 Population Health Management 469 (2018), available at <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/pop.2017.0199>.