

The Cost Effective Use of Funds To Serve People with Developmental Disabilities

What Legislators Can Do in the 2009 Legislative Session:

Support an additional 2,000 New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots in the budget for people on the waiting list.

- Sufficient funding for these slots is available in the NOW Trust Fund.
- Funding for continuation of these services in future years is available by maintaining the current fiscal effort in the developmental disabilities system and spending those funds more efficiently.

Why Do This?

- Over 9,500 people continue to wait nine years for the waiver services they need now.
- Individuals and families should not be denied waiver services they desperately need when money is available in the NOW Trust Fund that is not being used.
- Without waiver services, many families eventually reach the end of their emotional, physical and/or financial ropes and seek out-of-home placement. This is more costly for the state and breaks up families.
- OCDD's new assessment and planning process is already bringing the average cost of the NOW down. Current average plan of care cost for added NOW recipients in FY09 is \$41,000, a dramatic decrease. This is significantly lower than the current average cost of \$65,000.