

Louisiana's Resource Allocation Model: Recommendations for Public and Private ICFs/DD

What Legislators Can Do:

Support implementation of the Resource Allocation Model in public and private ICFs/DD.

The Resource Allocation Model is currently applied to people receiving waiver services in the community. With the Resource Allocation Model, waiver services are provided to individuals based on an assessment that determines their level of need. Waiver services have always been provided at less cost to the public on average than supporting someone with the same level of need in an institutional setting. Currently, the average annual cost of serving an individual in a developmental center is \$173,313 compared to the average annual cost of \$65,581 for services through the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW). OCDD projects that once the Resource Allocation Model is fully implemented, the average cost for a NOW slot will only be about \$48,000.

Plan for Implementation of Resource Allocation to ICF/DD Residents:

Assess all residents of public and private ICFs/DD using the Supports Intensity Scale/La. Plus (SIS/LA+) and offer services based on need.

Residents of Developmental Centers

- Developmental Center (DC) residents who do not require a high level of supports (i.e., intensive medical services) would be provided community services through waiver services or a community home.
 - OCDD estimates that approximately 200 residents of developmental centers are at the three lowest levels of need.

Residents of Private ICFs/DD

- Residents of Private ICFs/DD who do not require 24 hour supervision would be offered waiver services.

Potential Funding for Waiver Slots

- Beds vacated in the private ICFs/DD will remain available. The waiver slots for people exiting the private ICFs/DD should be financed by the savings realized by the consolidation and closure of developmental centers and the voluntary closure of private ICF/DD beds.

Implementation of the Resource Allocation Model in institutional settings is one mechanism to downsize institutions and better use scarce resources, but the most important reason to shift how and where services are provided is that the overwhelming majority of people who have moved out of large institutions into communities report a higher quality of life and prefer their new living arrangements. This finding is even true of people with the most significant disabilities – who can live safely in their communities and enrich the lives of their neighbors with the support of waiver services.