



# Intellectual Developmental Disability Summit: A System in Crisis



The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD services as the Local IDD Authority (LIDDA) for Harris County. LIDDAs act as the front door for essential and cost-effective services supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). LIDDAS also provide targeted case management, crisis intervention, and other safety net services, such as crisis respite, that allow people with IDD to remain in the community, close to family and friends.

The Texas Legislature has taken several positive steps over the last decade to rebalance the service system for people with IDD. Unfortunately, the demand for IDD community-based continues to exceed available services. The Medicaid Interest lists for community-based services continues to grow. The demand for safety net services while people are waiting for a waiver slot exceeds funding.

Medicaid Waiver Interest List		
	Home & Community-based Services	Texas Home Living Waiver (TXHML)
Total on Interest List in Harris County (6/2024)	24,421	22,680
Total on Interest List in Texas (4/2024)	124,001	111,848
Average Time on Interest List	16-17 years	13-14 years
FY24/25 Biennial Slots Statewide 88th Session	1,144	305

The Harris Center provided...	People Waiting for Safety Net Services	
	 <b>315K</b> Services to People with IDD   <b>201K</b> Early Childhood Intervention Services	Community Supports
	Out-of-Home Respite	107
	In Home Respite	659
	Residential Living	5
	Employee Assistance	4
	Supported Employment	22
	Vocational Training	54
	Day Habilitation	236
	Specialized Therapies	741
	Behavioral Support	551
	<b>Unduplicated Count</b>	<b>1789</b>



## CALL TO ACTION: *Make a difference for people with IDD*

### Topics to discuss

- Increase the wage rate for all IDD direct care workers in all positions (day programs, group homes, and in-home support) to a rate more closely aligned with the State Supported Living Center wage rates.
- Increase access to the Home and Community-based Services (HCS) and to the Texas Home Living Waivers.
- Increase access to safety net services provided by Community Centers, including crisis prevention and crisis intervention services, and avoid more costly, inappropriate settings like jail.
- Ensure services rates adjust for inflation to ensure the availability of services and service providers.

### Actions to take

- Educate your legislators about the needs of the IDD service system today. Find out who represents you by visiting [www.wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home](http://www.wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home)
- Follow-up with your legislator periodically between now and the next session and remind them of your priorities and their importance to the IDD service system.
- Show up and speak out: Attend Legislative and Public Hearings. Talk to your local elected officials and leaders. Tell your story and that of the people with IDD in your community.
- Spread the word: Tell people in your community that the health and safety of persons with IDD is at risk. Partner with your Community Center to share resources and information in meetings, events and publications.