
Issue Brief – Disability Family Preservation Pilot

DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

NUMBERDHS-09-13

DISABILITY FAMILY PRESERVATION AND DAY SERVICES PILOT

Passage of House Bill 47, “Pilot Program for Family Preservation Services” during the 2007 General Session established a two year pilot program for the Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) to provide family preservation and day services. DSPD requests a one-time General Fund of \$150,000 for year two of the disability family preservation pilot program. The Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee place this request of \$150,000 one-time General Fund on a priority list for year two of the Family Preservation Pilot Program.

OBJECTIVE

Each year, DSPD strives to reduce the waiting list. Total funding required to eliminate the current waiting list is \$20.7 million with \$7.2 million (34 percent) from General Fund and \$13.5 million from federal Medicaid match. The purpose of this program is to provide family preservation services for families and individuals with disabilities who are not considered the most critical on the waiting list but who are at risk of losing the family as the primary care giver.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD) currently has a waiting list of 1,654 individuals waiting for services (See Issue Brief DHS-09-14). To receive services, people must have substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following life activities: self care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. DSPD uses a triage method for the waiting list to determine who will move off the waiting list into Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services. Many of the individuals have been on the list for years because they are not as critical. This pilot program provides services such as professional behavioral intervention and training for parents and siblings in behavior management, reward systems and household management for about 150 to 200 individuals. The 2007 Legislature provided \$150,000 one-time General Fund for the first year of this pilot. The clients served in this program would not be brought into the Medicaid waiver services; therefore they would not qualify for federal matching funds.

RECOMMENDATION

The Analyst recommends that the Subcommittee place this request of \$150,000 one-time General Fund on a priority list for year two of the Family Preservation Pilot Program.