



What is IDD?

IDD stands for intellectual and developmental disabilities (formally called mental retardation, now considered disrespectful). **An intellectual disability** is usually a permanent condition originating sometime between birth and age 18 characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning and difficulties in a variety of everyday social and practical skills (individuals roughly have an IQ of 70 or below).

A developmental disability is attributed to a cognitive (intellectual disability) and/or physical impairment that results in limitations in areas such as self-care, language, and mobility. This can include a broad range of disorders and syndromes including Autism, Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy.

Around 36 percent of individuals with IDD have a co-occurring mental health diagnosis, and many have considerable behavioral challenges. Developmental disabilities can include significant medical needs and physical disabilities which require specialized equipment and additional assistance with activities of daily living like eating and bathing. Many of these individuals have little or no family involvement or outside supports.

How does the state serve individuals with IDD?

Approximately 475,000 Texans have a developmental disability. Texas serves about 44,774 individuals in various entitlement and waiver (community based) programs.

1. Entitlement Programs

State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs) and Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF-IIDs) are state **entitlement** programs that provide 24-hour residential care to individuals with IDD. There are no interest lists for entitlement programs, they are offered statewide, and are available to anyone that meets the eligibility requirements which includes a diagnosis of an intellectual or a developmental disability.

- SSLCs are large, state-owned and operated institutional facilities. There are 13 SSLCs across the state with a total projected FY 2019 census of 2,906 individuals.
- ICF-IIDs can be either public or privately owned and operated facilities and may be small (up to 8 beds), medium (9-13 beds) or large (14 or more beds).
 - o The majority of individuals residing in an ICF-IID are in small facilities.
 - o Public ICF-IIDs are certified by the state, private ICF-IIDs are licensed
 - o HHSC projects 4,872 individuals will be living in an ICF-IID in FY 2019

2. Community Programs

Most Texans with IDD are served through community-based **waiver** programs where individuals may receive services in their own home, a family home, a host home/companion care setting (formerly called adult foster care), or in a three or four-bed group home. Waiver programs for individuals with IDD each offer a particular amount and array of services and are not an entitlement. The legislature decides how much money they will appropriate for waiver programs, and the number of people served is constrained by that amount of funds. Those individuals who are interested in receiving services but are unable to obtain them are then placed on an “interest list.” The Home and Community-based Services (HCS) waiver, which is the largest IDD waiver, has an interest list of 93,940 individuals currently waiting up to 13 years to receive services.

Community waiver programs for individuals with IDD include:

- Home and Community-based Services (HCS) – Services are delivered in a person’s own home, family home, host home/companion care home, or in three or four bed group homes. 26,723 individuals projected to be served in 2019
- Texas Home Living (TxHML) – Services are delivered in a person’s own home or family home and include day habilitation services (offered in all IDD waivers) and transportation. This is the only program that considers family income for eligibility - 4,387 individuals projected to be served in 2019
- Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS) – Services are delivered in a person’s own home or family home and include a variety of specialized therapies only available in this waiver. A related condition, not intellectual disability, must be the primary diagnosis for eligibility - 5,557 individuals projected to be served in 2019
- Deaf-Blind Multiple Disability (DBMD) – Services are delivered in a person’s own home or family home or in a small group home (1-3 people) or medium (4-6 people) assisted living facility. Unique services to this waiver include intervener services, orientation/mobility services. 329 individuals projected to be served in 2019

Services offered through the IDD waivers include: habilitation (either one on one or in a group setting), employment services, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychiatry, nursing, speech and language pathology, dietary services, respite, minor home modifications, and adaptive aids, among others.

On average, a person residing in an SSLC costs \$19,514 per month, while a person served in the HCS waiver program costs on average \$3,638 per month—around one-fifth of the cost. Most people prefer community-based services because it allows them to remain with friends and family and allows them the freedom to participate in community activities of their choosing.

What is the role of groups like PACSTX?

Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas, or PACSTX, is an association of IDD program providers offering services in the IDD population.

IDD providers are licensed or certified by the State of Texas to offer services in the community. These services are guided by a person-centered planning model which focuses upon self-determination and community integration so that individuals with IDD may have control, dignity, and the ability to live as much like individuals without disabilities as possible. To that end, service plans focus upon building and maintaining skills to help those with IDD help themselves (called habilitation services).

For more information or questions, please contact:

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