

Fund Transportation Services for Individuals with Disabilities

Transportation is a critical need for people with disabilities, especially those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). People with disabilities have consistently described how transportation barriers affect their lives in significant ways. Luckily, those who receive services through a provider are able to receive some transportation services.

Providers in Louisiana provide transportation to the individuals they serve in two ways:

1. Providing transportation for individuals in independent living to access the community, for errands, recreational and social activities.
2. Providing transportation within another service, i.e., day services. When transportation is provided within another service, it most commonly is used for employment, residential habilitation and day habilitation.

Data collected from the local chapters of The Arc show that transportation is inadequately funded in the NOW and ROW waiver, but not funded at all in the Supports Waiver. For providers, the cost to provide transportation for the people they serve is the same regardless of the waiver they receive.

What can the Legislature do?

- Add Transportation in the Supports Waiver as a service.
- Ensure that the rate for transportation services is equal across the DD Waivers (NOW, ROW, Supports Waiver), by setting the rate at the current wheelchair rate of \$20.00 a day.
- Appropriate \$1.5 million in State General Funds to fund transportation services across all three waivers.

How will increasing the rate to transportation help the state?

Many people are unable to receive day services because of the lack of transportation. If the rate is increased, providers would have the resources to serve more individuals in the community. This service has the least fiscal impact, and if more recipients were able to receive these services, cost to more expensive services, i.e., IFS would go down.

Increased options and improved access to transportation will turn the key to independent living and community integration.