

2026 IDD Division Legislative Priorities

1. **Stabilize the IDD workforce** – Build upon existing workforce initiatives to increase program capacity, reduce vacancy rates, and support measurable movement of the waiting list.
 - Advocate for comprehensive rate analysis and timely rate refreshes to ensure provider rates reflect the true cost of service delivery, recognize inflationary pressures, and account for costs associated with Performance-Based Contracting (PBC).
 - Revise 55 Pa. Code §6100.571 to shorten the interval between required rate refresh periods and promote predictable, sustainable funding updates.
 - Modernize program specialist qualification requirements by reducing or eliminating outdated educational criteria that limit career advancement for DSPs and other staff who have demonstrated competency but lack formal degree credentials.
2. **Promote innovation, choice, and operational efficiency** – Ensure providers have meaningful opportunities to develop and maintain innovative service models that promote individual choice, operational efficiency, and alignment with national best practices.
 - Advocate for a less restrictive interpretation of the CMS Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Rule as applied under 55 Pa. Code §6100.444.
 - Support policy changes that allow innovative programming to be permissible by default rather than requiring approval through waiver exceptions.
3. **Reduce administrative burden to support service capacity growth** – Enable providers to redirect limited resources toward workforce stabilization, program expansion, and service quality.
 - Collaborate with ODP leadership to develop streamlined processes that eliminate duplicative documentation and reporting across licensing, Performance-Based Contracting (PBC), Enterprise Incident Management (EIM), Quality Assessment and Improvement (QA&I), and Provider Qualification.
 - Align existing quality improvement, licensing, and oversight processes to eliminate redundant document submissions and duplicative reviews.