

Recommendation 12: Provide Community Services to Everyone

ISAC Update

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People with disabilities-whether living on their own, with families, or in institutions-are waiting for community services. The goal is to build a system having the capacity to provide services in a timely fashion for all people who need supports.

Strategy #1

#1 Individuals and their families receive SC service; information about local resources and services (e.g., OVR, Medicaid, aging, housing supports, income supports, justice related supports, and victim services); information to connect with family and self-advocacy support organizations; and Family Support Service (FSS) using Base and block grant funding.

Supports coordination should provide individuals and families with tools and support to create a vision of an everyday life that:

- a. Considers local community resources in an everyday life: daily and community living, social and spirituality, healthy lifestyles, security, civic engagement, and advocacy,
- b. Builds on the personal strengths, interests, relationships, resources, and opportunities within the person's and family's lives, and
- c. Serves as the overall framework to provide publicly funded services which align with their everyday life.

Supports Coordination PBC



Measures for Supports Coordination that align with strategy #1:



Access

Remaining open for referrals
Timely service initiation



Continuum of Services

Providing information about all residential options
Lifesharing, Supported Living and Housing leads



Quality

Promoting wellness
Supporting and connecting people to doctors and preventative care



Resource navigation

Registering for and using [PA Navigate](#)

▶ ABLÉ Account Training

[Learn About PA ABLÉ With the Department of Human Services](#)

September 16, 2026 12pm-1pm

The PA ABLÉ Savings Program gives individuals with qualified disabilities a tax-free way to save for a wide range of disability-related expenses while maintaining important benefits. Some of the topics we will discuss include, eligibility requirements for opening a PA ABLÉ account, the federal and state tax benefits, and how PA ABLÉ interacts with important benefits.

➤ Strategy #2

#2 -ODP will implement its Multi-Year Program Growth Strategy aimed at ending the Emergency Waiting List for adults aged 21+.



39%

As of June 30, 2026, the **reduction in the Adult Emergency Waiting List** since the start of the Multi-Year Program Growth Strategy

Counties that eliminated their Adult Emergency Waiting Lists:

Lawrence
Forest/Warren
Clarion
Potter

MYPGS Key Performance Indicators

For adults, 30 days
or less from
Emergency PUNS
identification to
waiver enrollment

Registration and
enrollment are
proportional to
county census and
ID/A prevalence
rates

For all individuals,
reducing total
time on Waiting
List

Reducing time
from waiver
enrollment to
waiver service
delivery

ODP's Key Performance
Indicators for Multi-Year
Program Growth
Strategy

➤ Strategy #3

Update the Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services (PUNS) instrument and conduct ongoing training on the PUNS tool for:

- a. Individuals, families, SCs and AEs, and
- b. SCs on facilitating discussion to inform the PUNS.

PUNS Updates

In 2025, ODP led a workgroup to review and edit Emergency PUNS questions.

In addition to updating the Emergency PUNS questions, the group developed a set of supplemental questions to provide additional detail on the individual circumstances.

AEs and SCOs piloted the new set of Emergency PUNS questions and supplemental questions in May 2025.

AEs report the supplemental questions have been helpful in supporting waiver capacity decision making over the last year.

➤ Strategy #4 & 5

#4 ODP will provide training, resource bundles, and technical assistance to law enforcement and criminal justice systems regarding intellectual disability and autism on available supports and services in order to: a. Prevent individuals from being arrested, b. Promote interagency collaboration if an individual becomes involved with the criminal justice system, c. Focus efforts on “intercept 0” to connect people with community services before they become justice involved, d. Improve supports to individuals who have been victims of crimes, and e. Ensure individuals who may be eligible for services are referred by corrections facilities to appropriate counties so that eligibility can be determined, and appropriate supports can be identified to facilitate a safe introduction to the community.

#5 Develop expertise with Providers, AEs and SCOs by providing training to: a. Identify individuals at risk for becoming involved in the justice system and to implement risk mitigation strategies, b. Navigate the criminal justice system to support diversion and increase collective system capacity to support individuals involved with the criminal justice system, and c. Establish standards for SCOs to have expertise in supporting justice involved individuals.

Minimal Facts Interviewing for Children with Disabilities Training

- Collaboration with the Pennsylvania Child Advocacy Center
- Developed a [free, online, self-paced training around Minimal Facts Interviewing](#)
 - 2 Continuing Law Enforcement Education (CLEE) credits approved by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC)
- Participants will learn appropriate communication strategies for interviewing children with disabilities to support accurate information gathering while prioritizing the child's well-being.



Minimal Facts Interviewing is a strategic approach to talking with a child to collect basic information about alleged abuse or neglect.

➤ Strategy #6

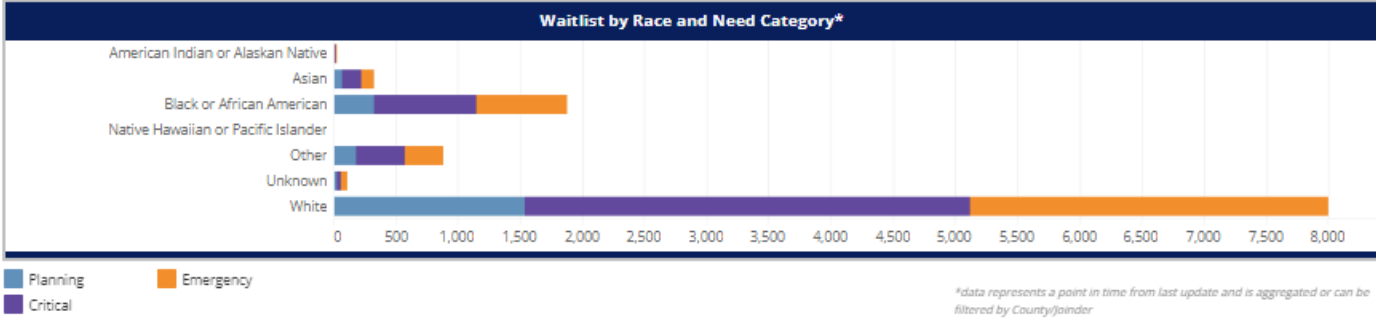
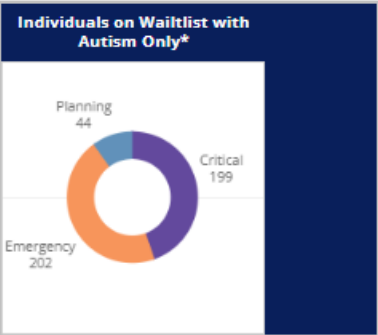
ODP will issue an annual report on progress in addressing the waiting list. The report will include strategies to address ending the waiting list for eligible adults in PA.

Multi Year Program Growth Strategy Dashboard

Multi Year Program Growth Strategy Dashboard

Total Number of Individuals 21+ in each PUNS Category (Emergency, Critical, Planning) SFY25-26 Q3			
Critical Person needs services more than six months but less than two years from now	Emergency Person needs services immediately, within the next six months	Planning Person needs services more than two but less than five years from now	Grand Total
3,093	3,109	927	7,129

Total Number of Individuals Below 21 in each PUNS Category (Emergency, Critical, Planning) SFY25-26 Q3			
Critical Person needs services more than six months but less than two years from now	Emergency Person needs services immediately, within the next six months	Planning Person needs services more than two but less than five years from now	Grand Total
1,900	973	1,242	4,115



➤ Strategy # 8

#8- Building on the success of ODP's approach to managing waiver capacity for high school graduates, ODP will develop strategies and train AEs to implement more efficient waiver capacity management strategies giving AEs more flexibility while serving more people.



Strong foundation High School Graduate initiative success 2018

Major investments coupled with management to budget.

- 3000+ additional adults enrolled in CW and CLW
- 2 quarters full implementation 474 individuals served through budget & capacity approvals
- FY26-27 \$76M to continue MYPGS

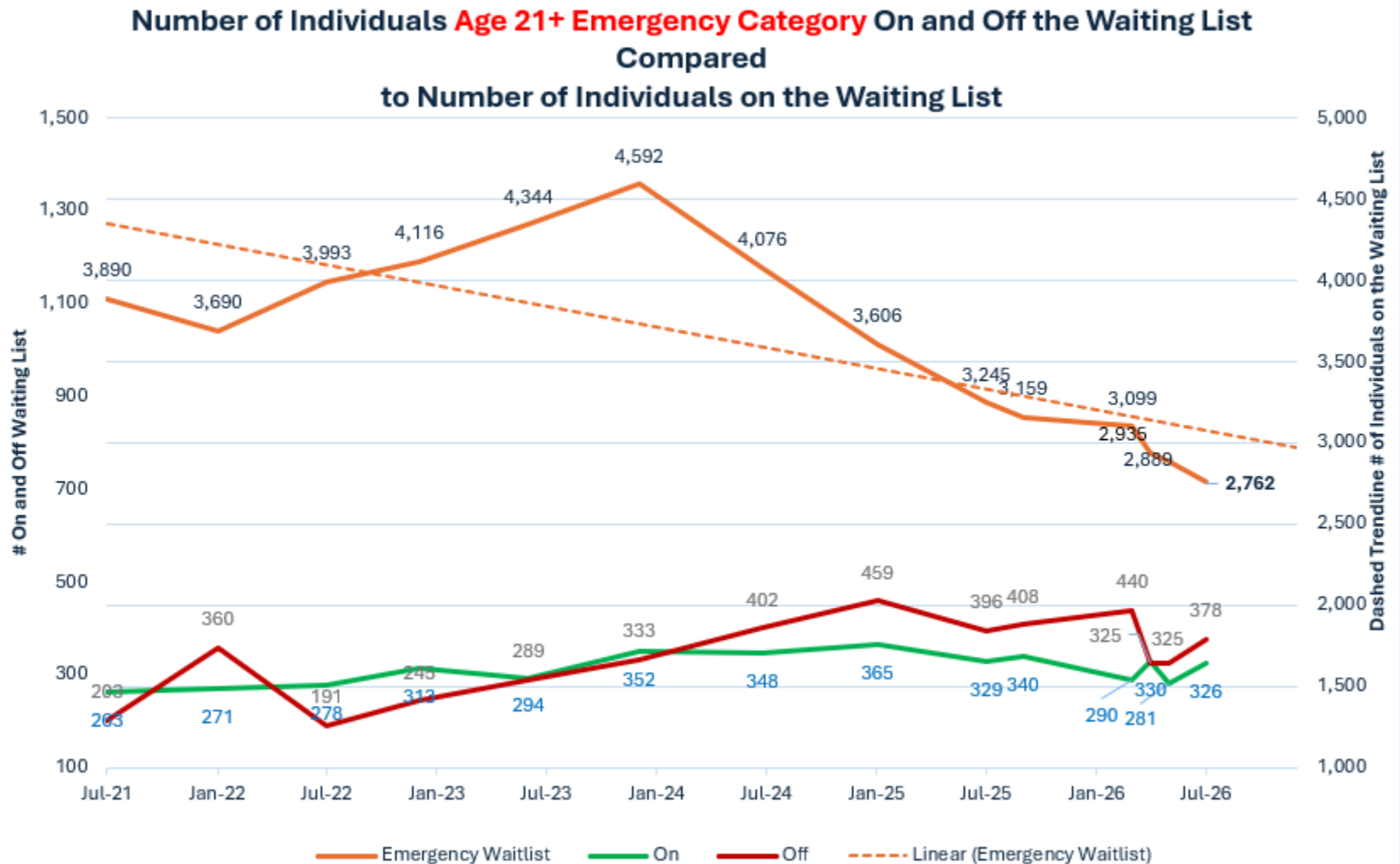
Development and release of new management tools:

- AE MYPGS Dashboard
- Quarterly budget & Capacity Adjustment
- PUNS Supplemental and Manual Updates
- Utilization review protocol



Quarterly Budget and Capacity Adjustment Requests

	Approved	
Request period	Consolidated	Community Living
3rd qt 24/25	28	31
2nd qt 25/26	157	126
3rd qt 25/26	56	76
TOTAL	241	233



Questions