



Pennsylvania Advocates and Resources
for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities



September 21, 2026

Subject: Request to Immediately Initiate Fee Schedule Rate Review

Deputy Secretary Ahrens,

We are writing to request an independent review be initiated immediately to update the data used to develop the Office of Developmental Program (ODP's) fee schedule rates in accordance with the Chapter 6100.571(c), which requires the Department to update the data used in establishing fee schedule rates at least every three years. The urgency of our request is based upon the understanding that a rate analysis will require 90 days to complete and recognition that a substantial investment in rates will require credible data and analysis to be provided to the Commonwealth's Budget Office in advance of the Governor's next Executive Budget.

Current fee schedule rates, effective July 1, 2024, were based on a review process initiated in September 2023. In the 3 years since that data was updated to establish new rates, staff turnover and vacancies have grown to unsustainable levels and are directly impacting the availability of services to those who need it. From a recent study completed this year, the vacancy factor has reached 18.2% and the turnover rate has reached 41%.*

As providers are forced to pay overtime to cover vacant shifts, costs continue to rise. The 41% average turnover rate means that since the last rate increase, the system has turned over 50,000 of its workers. For providers, turnover results in increased costs associated with recruiting and training the workforce. For people with intellectual disabilities and autism who must rely on Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to provide very personal care, having unfamiliar DSPs provide that care may be very upsetting and frightening.

In addition to increased costs due to high vacancy and turnover rates, providers are seeing increases in insurance premiums, fuel, food, and utilities, and compounded inflation year after year has resulted in the existing rates that do not match real time expenditures. Maintaining our community ID/A system with insufficient rates that deliver services for more than 60,000 Pennsylvanians is unsustainable. Furthermore, we cannot build the necessary capacity to meet the needs of those on the waiting list identified through the Multi-Year Program Growth Strategy without reimbursement rates that reflect economic reality.

We are confident that a review will reveal that the current rates are far below the necessary funding levels to ensure quality services are available to those that need it. We look forward to continuing to

work with your administration to eliminate the emergency waiting list, and ensure services are available to those that need them. Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to your response. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss should you have any questions or concerns.

The Alliance of Community Service Providers	The Provider Alliance (TPA)
MAX	Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA)
The Arc of Pennsylvania	PAR

*Provider Consortium. (2026). *2025 Pennsylvania Direct Support Professional % Frontline Supervisor Compensation Study*. Center for Disability Information. Retrieved from <https://paroncloud.egnyte.com/dl/xy8GcM4ppy8R>.