



End the Waitlist –This Goal is Within Reach!

Ask: Provide the necessary resources to the Department of Health, Division of Senior and Disability Services (SDS) to end the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities waitlist.

What: As of January 2026, the IDD Waitlist stands at **314** people. In compliance with HB 281 in 2022, the Alaska Department of Health developed a *“Plan for Eradicating the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Waitlist”*, published in December 2022. Today, two critical reforms are needed and work together as a system -- both are needed to succeed in eradicating the waitlist:

1. InterRAI Assessment Tool -- FY26 is Year 3 of the Legislature’s funding of this project and implementation is set to begin in FY 27 but resources are needed.

- Integrates eligibility determination with cost estimation based on individual support needs.
- Replaces the fragmented current system where service amounts depend on who writes and reviews support plans.
- Provides objective, consistent assessment of services needed. Initial assessments must be done in person by trained department personnel.
- Provides a pathway to a self-directed service model in Alaska. This is where recipients manage their Medicaid waiver budget and purchase services or hire their own staff with technical support and quality assurance provided by the state.

2. Medicaid Rate Reform for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS)

- Current rates are outdated and don't reflect actual costs of providing services.

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- New methodology ensures sustainable, accurate payment for services.
- Transition to new rates requires funding but are critical to health of our Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).
- [Guidehouse Study on LTSS](#).

Two Asks:

- 1. Allocate \$1,000,000 for InterRAI implementation funding.** The 2023 legislative response to the IDD waitlist eradication report resulted in the Legislature appropriating \$3.3 million in general and federal funds to fund InterRAI implementation, and that funding is ending June 20, 2026. *For FY 2027, \$1 million in state funds are needed to match \$1 million in federal funds (Medicaid HCBS) to begin the final phase and implementation of the new InterRAI Home Assessment tool.*
- 2. Begin implementing the LTSS Rate Methodology Transition** per Guidehouse recommendations, requiring increased Medicaid LTSS budget. *Beginning this legislative session, work with Department of Health to develop phased implementation of new rates.*

Additional Resources:

January 2026 Waitlist Numbers:

IDD Registry Only: **284** ISW Registry Only: **89** On Both: **314**

- # of People on the waivers: 2,148 individuals offered on or offered a spot on the IDD waiver.
- 596 currently on or offered spot on ISW waiver.

To date, this fiscal year, 64 individuals have been drawn for the IDD waiver and 64 for the ISW waiver.

<https://health.alaska.gov/en/senior-and-disabilities-services/developmental-disabilities/>

