

Fill the Slots and End the Wait!

Facts First

- **Over 11,000 people with developmental disabilities wait nine years for waiver services they need now!**
- **Almost 1,000 waiver slots funded by the legislature remain unfilled: 333 NOW, 257 Children's Choice and 403 Supports Waiver.***
- **DHH is using waiver funds to fill holes elsewhere in the Medicaid budget.**
- **If all available slots are filled, additional slots are still needed to begin to meet demand.**

* These numbers are from October 2013. Current numbers are undoubtedly higher.

What Legislators Can Do:

Ensure the Department of Health and Hospitals has sufficient funding in the Medicaid budget to fill all existing home and community-based waiver slots and create 200 additional New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) slots for people with developmental disabilities.

This funding has been included in the Governor's proposed budget.

Why Do This?

The legislature appropriated funding for existing vacant slots with the expectation they would be filled by DHH in a timely manner.

The existing slots AND funds for additional slots are both needed to prevent individuals from waiting longer than nine years to receive critical services.

Without waiver services, many families reach crisis situations and seek more costly out-of-home placement.

Waiver services are more cost effective than institutional settings and afford individuals with developmental disabilities a better quality of life in their own homes or with their families.

The average cost for a new NOW slot is \$45,000 vs. the average cost of \$53,000 to \$73,000 per person in a 1-8 bed residential facility.