

SB 1

The 83rd Texas Legislature passed and the Texas Comptroller certified SB 1, the 2014-2015 biennial budget. It includes \$94.6 billion in General Revenue, and \$197 billion in All Funds. Combined with the supplemental appropriation, the \$95 billion GR budget is an increase of less than 8 percent compared to 2012-13 GR spending. However, after adjusting for population and inflation, the GR for 2014-2015 is 8.4% below the levels in the 2010-2011 budget. For people with disabilities the budget funds many of the requested health and human services Exceptional Items to restore or expand services. This document includes a summary of the decisions made for selected health and human service programs important for people with developmental disabilities.

Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)

Medicaid Waiver Programs

DADS requested funding to provide services to 20% of the persons waiting on HCS and CLASS interest lists who are likely eligible for services, and funding to increase services by 10% over August 2013 caseload levels for the other waivers. As of April 30, 2013, there were 105,032 unduplicated persons waiting on interest lists.

Promoting Independence

The budget fully funds the DADS request for diversions and transitions from institutions into community waiver programs. New this session are HCS services for persons with IDD to transition from nursing facilities and Child Protective Services group homes. The \$28.1M for promoting independence will be used to:

- Transition 400 people from large and medium ICFs into HCS services
- Transition 192 children aging out of foster care into HCS services
- Provide HCS services to 300 persons in crisis to prevent SSLC placement
- Provide CBA services to 100 persons in crisis to prevent nursing home placement
- Provide HCS services to 360 people with IDD in nursing homes
- Provide HCS services to 25 kids living in Child Protective Services group homes

Community Expansion

Waiver	Request	Funded 2014-2015
HCS	5,566	1,324
CLASS	3,056	712
TxHmL	574	3,000
CBA	982	100
STAR+PLUS	1,116	490
MDCP	238	120
DBMD	16	100
Total Svcs	11,548	5,846

Community First Choice

The budget includes a new basic attendant and habilitation service for 11,902 people with IDD that would be delivered by managed care organizations (insurance companies). The new service will be made available to persons with a functional need who are also Medicaid eligible.

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

Early Childhood Intervention

ECI provides services to eligible children with developmental delays that assist them to gain skills or improve development. The ECI request was fully funded to address the increase in the average cost of services that occurred as a result of the 82nd Legislature's decision to narrow eligibility. The budget also includes a rider that makes \$63M of the total ECI appropriation contingent on a requirement that families earning above 400% of the federal poverty level pay 100% of the cost of ECI services. That means that a family of four earning more than \$94,200 would be required to pay approximately \$400 per month for ECI services.

Autism Program

The DARS Autism Program provides intensive, evidence-based treatment to children ages 3-8 with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The budget funds \$2.4M to establish two additional autism service locations and makes the funding contingent upon a plan to provide services more efficiently to more children.

Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services

Individuals with a traumatic brain injury or spinal cord injury can receive post-acute rehabilitative services in the CRS program. The budget includes added funding to provide CRS services to an additional 103 persons.

Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)		
Exceptional Items	General Revenue	
	Request	Funded 2014-2015
1. Maintain ECI Current Services	\$10.8M	\$10.8M
2. Expand Autism Services to Unserved Areas	\$4.8M	\$2.4M
3. Expand Independent Living Centers	\$2M	\$0
4. Access to Interpreter Services for the Deaf	\$1.3M	\$700K
5. Deaf & Hard of Hearing Resource Specialists	\$840K	\$200K
6. Comprehensive Rehab Services for 206 persons	\$11.8M	\$5.9M

Independent Living Centers

The Legislature did not fund the DARS request for \$2M for three new ILCs primarily because no evidence was presented to support the request. Instead, a rider was added to require DARS to report on the actual and projected numbers of recipients served by each center and the types of services provided and make recommendations to improve the measurement, collection, and reporting of outcome data related to the centers.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

The legislature funded about 42% of the DARS combined requests for Access to Interpreter Services and Access to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)

Children with Special Health Care Needs

The CSHCN program covers services to children with extraordinary medical needs, disabilities, and chronic health conditions needs across the state. The program

pays for medical care, family support services, and related services not otherwise covered. The budget includes an additional \$6.6M.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS) (Cont.)

Mental Health Funding

The budget includes an additional \$154.8M to address mental health. This includes funds to eliminate the adult and children's waiting lists for mental health services.

Department of State Health Services (DSHS)	
Workgroup Initiatives	Funded 2014-2015
Public MH Awareness Campaign	\$1.6M
School-based training for teachers and staff in prevention and early identification of MH.	\$5M
Crisis Services	\$25M
Expand Community MH for 6,242 Adults and 286 Children	\$20M
Youth Empowerment Service (YES) Waiver Statewide Expansion	\$24.4M
Collaborative Public-Private Partnerships	\$25M
Expand Local MH Authorities to Serve Persons Who Are Underserved	\$17M
Expand NorthSTAR to Serve Persons Who Are Underserved	\$6M
Fund MH Services for Veterans	\$4M
1915i Home & Community Based Services Including Rental Assistance	\$20M
10 beds in private residential treatment centers (RTCs) for youth at risk for parental relinquishment of custody to DFPS	\$2.1M
NEW Investment in Mental Health Services	\$154.8M

Health and Human Services Enterprise

Acquired Brain Injury

The budget provides \$2.1M to the Office of Acquired Brain Injury and to increase services and supports for persons with an acquired brain injury.

Attendant Wages

121,000 attendants will receive wage increases. The lowest wages will be raised to \$7.50 per hour in FY 2014 and to 7.86 an hour in FY 2015. The \$88.7M GR appropriation to increase wages also includes \$20 million for provider rate enhancement. The original request was for \$176M for a 50 cent an hour across the board wage increase.

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA)

\$3.8M of the \$11.8M appropriated to the Housing Trust Fund will be used to fund the Amy Young Barrier Removal Program. This funding will be available to fund architectural accessibility modifications in individual homes or rental units.