



Improving and expanding resources for citizens with developmental disabilities

Too often, people with developmental disabilities in our state have been unable to access the services they need, and state resources have not been deployed effectively. For example, the Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center (RHC) currently serves 221 individuals at a cost of almost \$500,000 per client.

The MCC plan frees up nearly \$100 million per biennia to expand services for thousands in the community. It also seeks to empower families with more flexibility and service options.

To achieve this, our budget closes Fircrest RHC. Clients currently residing at Fircrest may be placed in State Operated Living Alternatives, supported living, nursing facilities or other RHCs. Proceeds from the sale of the Fircrest property will go into a Developmentally Disabled Community Trust. This consolidation will free up millions in resources to better serve citizens with developmental disabilities.

Currently, Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center serves 221 individuals at a cost of nearly \$500,000 per client.

We can do better.

Under our plan, DSHS is required to implement a consumer-directed Medicaid program as a voluntary alternative option for LTC and individuals with developmental disabilities who choose to receive in-home personal care service from a family member. This makes the client the “employer” and director of his or her own care. We also expand the Medicaid transformation waiver for roughly 8,000 unpaid family caregivers. This means family members serving as caregivers will have greater access to services like respite, counseling, and tenant support. Providing additional help for these family caregivers results in delayed entry of clients into paid Medicaid services, which saves state resources and improves care.

We offer targeted increases to vendors serving individuals with developmental disabilities. Eligible vendors will receive rate increases of two percent in 2017 and another two percent in 2018. Nursing home payment penalties for residents in certain Resource Utilization Groups (RUG) are modified and residents in certain RUG groups are exempt from the penalty.

About 600 students with a developmental disability who are not already receiving a Medicaid waiver will transition out of high school during the 2017-19 biennium. Funding is provided for all of these individuals to participate in employment services. We also eliminate the requirement that clients complete nine months of employment services before being eligible to access community services. Eliminating this requirement speeds access to services needed.