**2021 Legislative Priority**

**Developing an Infrastructure Support System**

**KEY FACTS**

1. The current rate of reimbursement for the developmental disability program is insufficient and does not provide enough retained earnings for providers to make these necessary adaptations to an aging infrastructure.

2. These funds may also have other unintended benefits of higher wages to staff as provider would not have to budget as much for maintaining group homes, congregate day center or apartment building used to house and care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

3. If providers had access to additional resources these could be used to provide a higher level of training which would reduce turnover, increase staff skills and expertise, and increase support to individuals with disabilities.

**Bill expected to be budget neutral**

**GOAL**

To implement an infrastructure support system using unutilized and inaccessible General Fund dollars already appropriated by the Legislature to the Developmental Disability Program within DPHHS.

**PURPOSE**

These unused funds would be reserved to:

* Support staff development; modifications for accessibility;
* Property improvement;
* Growing IT needs; or
* Other provider infrastructure needs that directly impact the lives of members with disabilities.

**Long Term Priorities**

**Regulatory Initiatives**

**Provider Rates**

**GOAL**

To continue building a positive working relationship with the Governor’s Office and state agencies in order to provide quality services and continuity of care.

1. To establish a grant system for DDP to review and approve provider assessed needs and to allocate resources to the approved project.

2. To establish a process of accountability for how provider agencies prove to the DDP that the allocated funds we used for the approved purpose.

**GOAL**

Develop and implement a coalition of multi service providers, legislative allies, and other invested parties to conduct research, compile data, and strategically build solution-oriented options to address provider rates long term. Coalition would be responsible for:

* Defining the need, shortfall, best case scenarios etc.
* Looking at how other states have addressed the issue.
* Researching funding opportunities.
* Building awareness and understanding of the needs to lawmakers, State Agencies, the Governor’s Office, and other community leaders.
* Developing long term, viable, solutions

**GOAL**

Work in partnership with DPHHS, Providers, Parents, and other stakeholders to develop a coalition to create and implement language, similar to Part B, that would protect Part C in Montana.

**Part C Protection**