

**Department of Health and Social Services**

**Division of Developmental Disabilities  
Services (DDDS)**



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**Joint Finance Committee Hearing  
Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**

**February 26, 2025**

Good Afternoon, Representative Williams, Senator Paradee, members of the Joint Finance Committee and members of the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today as we share some of our recent efforts, present our Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB).

## Accomplishments

- ❑ Supporting a growing service population
- ❑ Strengthening our workforce
- ❑ Strengthening community supports



Our Division is committed to ensuring our service systems continues to evolve with the changing needs and wants of those we serve.

We're grateful for the ongoing support and commitment we received in the last budget cycle. Funding provided for FY 2025 has enabled the Division to, in part support new individuals to successfully navigate the transition from youth to adult services and make possible residential services in the community for individuals unable to live at home with their families.

The Division leverages these State funds to secure federal match for individuals eligible for Medicaid in our system. In practical terms, that has meant that through this State-Federal partnership we can make the system stronger through investments in, for example, workforce development, expanding access to behavioral health resources in the home, and strengthening legal protections for service participants through access to pre-planning for medical emergencies.

Cost savings made possible through these federal partnerships enabled the Division to self-fund an increase in rates for three service lines ensuring all current rates use a wage consistent with the State's new minimum wage – consistent with Epilogue language provided last year. And the Division has undertaken a new comprehensive rate study this fiscal year to revisit rates last updated in 2019.

## FY 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget

(\$ in Thousands)

	GF	ASF	NSF	Total
FTEs	408.0	1.0	1.2	410.2
Dollars (\$)	\$153,326.5	\$5,382.2	\$12,886.4	\$171,595.1



**Budget Definitions:**

- GF – General Funds
- ASF – Appropriated Special Funds
- NSF – Non-Appropriated Special Funds
- FTEs – Full Time Equivalent Positions

The slide above shows the budget included in the FY 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB).

Our Division's FY 2026 GRB is:

- \$153,326.5 [One Hundred Fifty-three Million, Three Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand, Five Hundred dollars] in General Funds (GF);
- \$5,382.2 [Five Million, Three Hundred Eighty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred dollars] in Appropriated Special Fund (ASF) spending authority; and
- \$12,886.4 [Twelve Million, Eight Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred dollars] in Non-Appropriated Special Funds (NSF).
- For a Total of \$171,595.1 [One Hundred Seventy-One Million, Five Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand, One Hundred dollars]

These funding commitments from the State enable the Division to acquire approximately 60% federal match for service participants eligible for Medicaid (which now applies to almost 95% of individuals served) on all services offered through the State's approved Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities (IDD) waiver.

## FY 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget

- \$1,108.9 - Services for School Graduates
- \$8,044.9 - Services for Community Placements
- \$1,131.3 - Alignment of DSP Minimum Wage Rate adjustments



Our FY 2026 GRB includes funding for DDDS Door Openers including:

- \$1,108.9 [One Million, One Hundred Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred dollars] enabling new school graduates to access community-based services including day habilitation, employment training and support, and other services designed to assist with everyday life.
- \$8,044.9 [Eight Million, Forty-Four Thousand, Nine Hundred dollars] ensuring individuals who can no longer live with their family can access a residential program in the community. and;
- \$1,131.3 [One Million, One Hundred Thirty-One Thousand, Three Hundred dollars] to provide the balance of State funds needed to maintain increases made in FY 2025 to align service rates with the new state minimum wage until a new comprehensive rate study can be completed.

## Looking Ahead

- ❑ Strengthening access to employment
- ❑ Strengthening services across the continuum and in the community



As we look ahead, I'm mindful of the sentiments I shared last year: that living life in the community means living life with the community. Communities are places of cooperation, participation, and partnership. That means we, too, must build our networks across State and community partners to support our service participants holistically.

With the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, we've leveraged federal support to strengthen our employment services.

With our colleagues at Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, we continue to participate in their crucial efforts to build community-based access to mental health resources that can be accessible to all.

We're investing efforts to strengthen the connection between services and providers stretching across our division and the Dept of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families to make services as seamless as possible.

And we are working with our colleagues at the Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities to ensure accessible navigation to services and supports – whether those services come from the State or already exist in communities where they live.

Thank you for the chance to share with you the challenges and opportunities facing the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

## *Meyer Administration Values*

### INTEGRITY

*Actions speak louder than words - actions build trust. We will lead with transparency and accountability to ensure every decision serves the public good.*

### EFFICIENCY

*Government should work smarter, not harder. We will eliminate waste, streamline services, and prioritize execution over excuses.*

### COLLABORATION

*Lasting change requires teamwork. We will break down silos, build strong partnerships, and deliver solutions that work.*