

The Arc of Virginia is the statewide advocacy organization made up of people with developmental disabilities, their family members, and their allies who are fighting for *A Life Like Yours* for Virginians with developmental disabilities (DD).

A Life Like Yours is a phrase self-advocates use to remind us that people with developmental disabilities want the same things we all want: a **HOME** of our own, a meaningful **JOB** or way we spend our days, and **RELATIONSHIPS** we value and depend on. These are the things that make up a good life.



2022 Agenda: Overview of Priorities



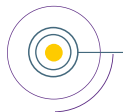
DD System Rescue Plan **in collaboration with vaACCSES**

- Invest in solutions that will systematically transform the DD System of Support from a costly *reactive* system that only intervenes once someone is in crisis, to a *proactive system*.
- This Plan aligns with the report from the 2021 Waiver Workgroup, and is detailed on **pages 2- 4 of this agenda**.



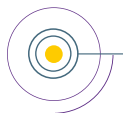
Relief for Families Devastated by the Workforce Crisis

- Allowing parents to continue serving as paid providers for their minor children receiving waiver services



Greater Access to Technology

- Planning with DMAS to combine the annual caps for AT/EM services - providing greater flexibility to meet individual needs

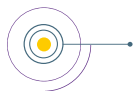


Protecting Virginians with DD in the Justice System

- Continuing ongoing work with DOC and collaborating with the local jails to ensure appropriate accommodations

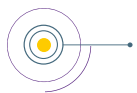
2022 AGENDA: DD System Rescue Plan

Bold, significant prioritization and investment is needed over the next biennium in order to stabilize Virginia's waiver program. Advocates and providers are focused on these essential steps.



Fund Rate Increases for Waiver Services

Fully implement provider rate increases for DD waiver services at a sustainable and equitable percentile.



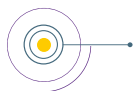
Invest in Innovative Models

Provide funding to support providers in starting or scaling up home and community-based services offerings (one time and ongoing).



Eliminate Priority One Waiting List

Adopt the plan proposed by the waiver workgroup to provide slots for individuals waiting in the most urgent category.



Develop Core Services

Offer select essential services to individuals in need, providing them with support before they might require a more comprehensive waiver.

Dual Approach: Rates and Waivers

*In the next biennium, implementing a funding plan for home and community-based waiver services must be a **top priority**.*



Two fundamental issues continue to remain unresolved: **the growing DD waiver waiting list** (with over 3,000 individuals in Priority 1) and **the workforce shortage of DD waiver providers**. These priorities will keep coming before the General Assembly until they are holistically addressed.

Full, concurrent investment is the only sustainable way to comprehensively address the dual crises of the lack of DD waiver providers and the DD waiver waiting list. Delaying the funding of this package will only increase the total costs that Virginia will pay later.



At the close of Q1 of 2021, **at least 14 providers had closed** across five of the 15 services identified as supporting more integrated living. DD waiver providers are experiencing the same hurdles, plus additional barriers, to reopen and rebuild as the private sector business community.

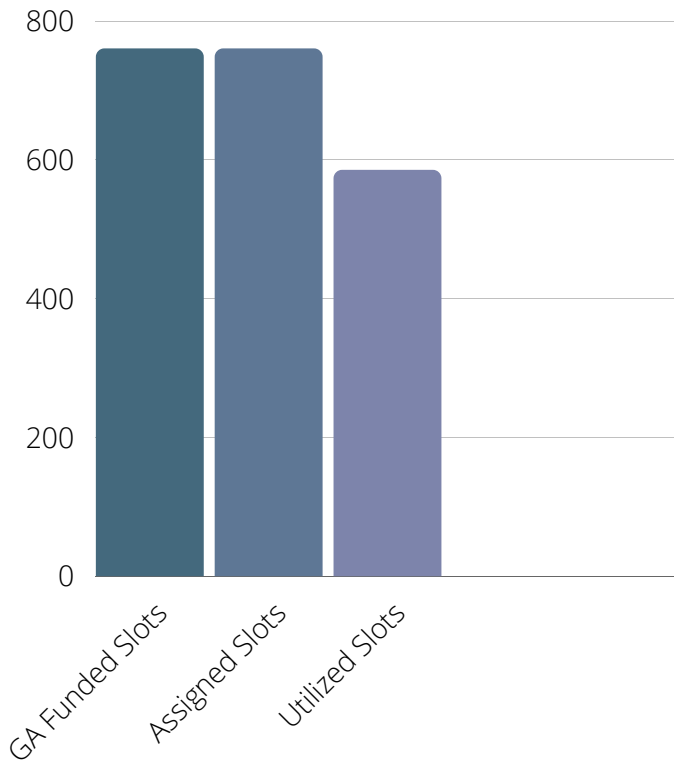
The waiting list has more than doubled in the nearly ten years. **The current method of triaging individuals for whom the receipt of needed services would significantly improve their quality of life is untenable**, and continues to see Virginians fall through the cracks during a prolonged pandemic/recovery.



The 2021 DMAS/DBHDS work group report stated clearly that reducing the waiting list relies on: **increasing reimbursement rates for DD waiver providers, adding additional waiver slots for people on the waiting list, and transforming service capacity through innovation.**

Waiver Utilization Data

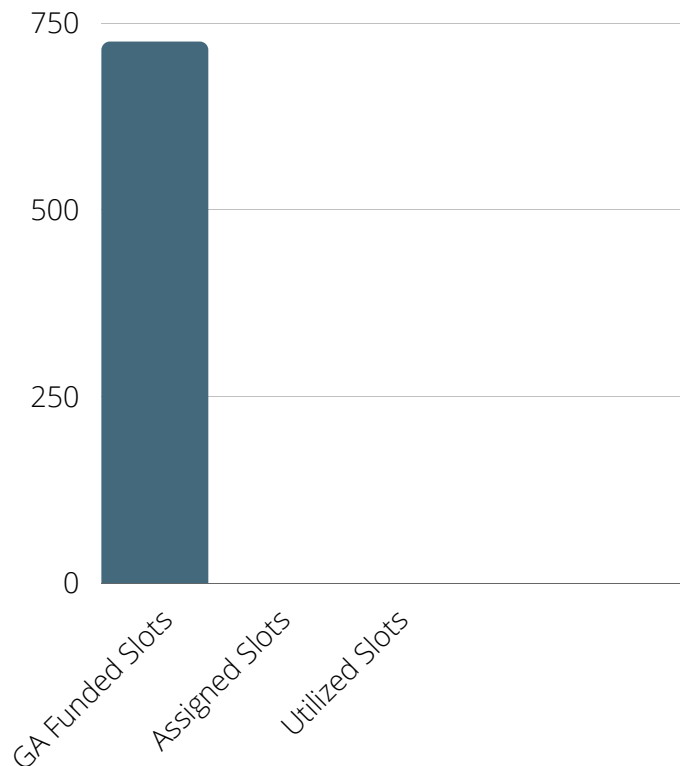
Impact from Lack of Provider Capacity



Without rescue, Virginia's system of DD supports will **spiral further into dysfunction.**

FY 2021
July 2020 - June 2021

Due to lack of provider capacity, almost 1 in 4 waivers assigned in 2020 remain unused and 0 waivers funded by the GA in 2021 have been assigned or utilized



FY 2022
July 2021 - June 2022