



Designated and Specialized Agencies Serving People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

14 Designated and Specialized Service Agencies who are members of Vermont Care Partners serve 4,500 individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities each year.

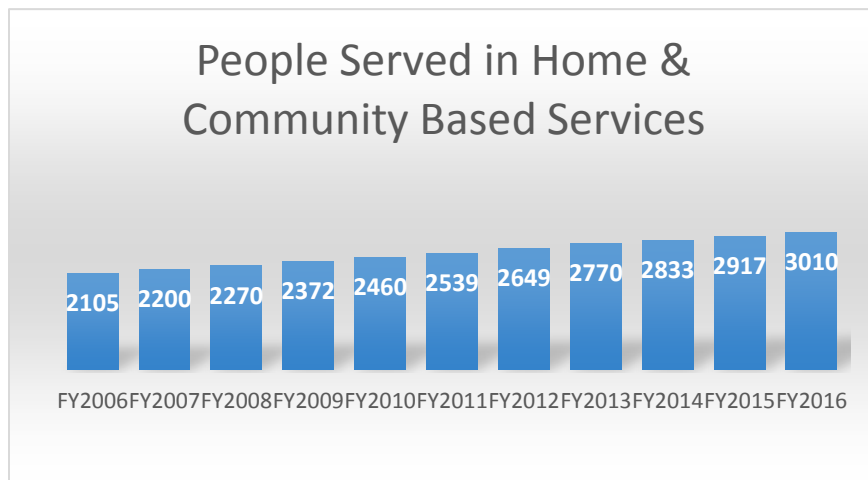
Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) have a diagnosis of:

- Intellectual Disability (IQ of 70) **or**
- Autism Spectrum Disorder

And, have both of the following:

- Significant deficits in adaptive function (social/emotional development, daily living skills, communication, and motor development)
- Onset of the disability prior to age 18

People with I/DD typically require long-term services and supports, mostly through Home and Community Based Services (HCBS waivers). Designated Agencies and Specialized Services provide a full range of services including residential, community and employment supports, crisis beds, behavior management, therapy, respite, service coordination, etc. to ensure that people with I/DD are afforded the same rights and opportunities as any member of the community.



From 2006 to 2016, the number of persons eligible for I/DD HCBS waiver services rose by almost 50%. This continual upward trend requires new money (caseload funds) each year.

Individuals with I/DD do best when served by highly-skilled staff with whom they can build trusting, lasting relationships. Due to low Medicaid rates Direct Support Professionals receive compensation levels that lead to staff turnover rates as high as 30% annually. In 2017, the legislature appropriated funds to increase their wages but the lack of a skilled, sustainable workforce continues because other direct service workers continue to receive higher pay with annual increases. This impacts quality and access to care for Vermont's most vulnerable citizens.