



## Designated and Specialized Agencies Serving People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

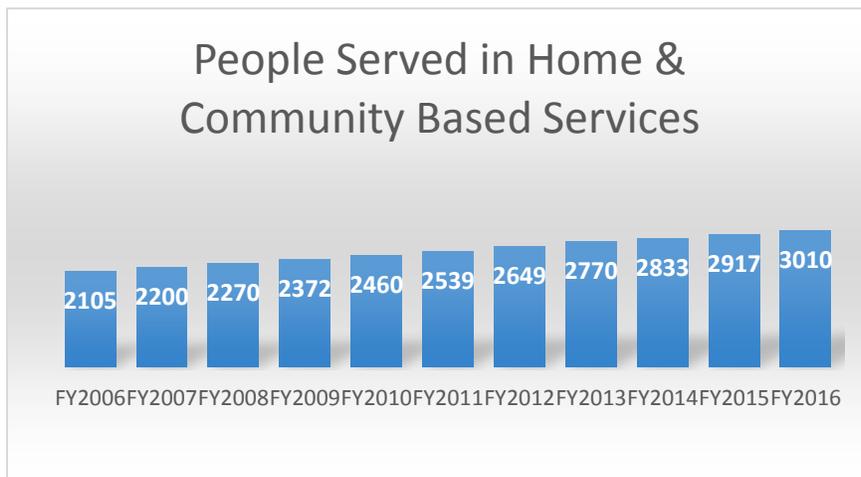
14 Designated and Specialized Service Agencies (DA/SSAs) serve 4,500 people with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) annually. These individuals have diagnoses of Intellectual Disability (IQ of 70) or Autism Spectrum Disorder and significant deficits in adaptive function such as social/emotional development, daily living skills, communication, and motor development with onset prior to age 18. They typically require long-term services and supports due to varied and complex needs:

- 56.10% have co-occurring mental health diagnosis
- 8.29% have co-occurring substance abuse diagnosis
- 48.54% have other significant health problems
- 34.69% have history of trauma/abuse
- 20.04% have history of homelessness

### ***We ask for a 4% increase in funding to improve staff compensation levels***

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 the compensation levels lead to staff turnover rates as high as 48% annually. This impacts quality and access to care for Vermont's most vulnerable citizens.

### ***Fully fund caseload for fiscal year 2020 – don't cut \$.5 million from 3-year average***



From 2006 to 2016, the number of persons receiving I/DD waiver services rose by almost 50%. This continual upward trend requires new money (caseload funds) each year. A 3-year average is used to project the annual funding level needed

DA/SSAs provide a 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 can access the same rights and opportunities as any member of the community. The services are client-centered, innovative and cost-effective. Employment and housing options promote self-determination. 95% of people served like where they work and 92% like where they live. Vermont is ranked 3rd in the country for inclusion of people with I/DD.