

Designated and Specialized Service 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/chronic health problems

34.69% have a history of trauma/abuse

20.04% have history of homelessness

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.

Developmental Services System Reform

The system of care for individuals with I/DD is undergoing enormous change. Meeting federal Conflict of Interest Free Case Management requirements will result in changing care models and agency responsibilities. To ensure appropriate service delivery choice for persons with I/DD, Vermont Care Partners supports the development of an ombudsman to assist individuals who use services with their questions and concerns. The State is also proposing changes in needs assessment criteria and methods while revising reporting and payment requirements for agencies. This may also potentially impact services received by individuals, as all individuals receiving services will eventually be reassessed under the new needs assessment process.

Providing statewide leadership for an integrated, high quality system of comprehensive services and supports

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