THESE ARE OUR LIVES

With your help, the Governor and leaders of the Maryland General Assembly restored 94% of the budget for this fiscal year, through June. While we are grateful for this action, **our lives and critical services are still at risk for FY26.**

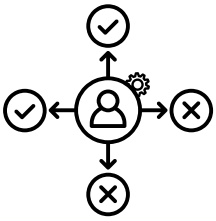
The next fiscal year starts in July, and the Governor's Budget includes a proposed decrease in funding of **$457 million.** Losing this funding means losing services and supports we need to live and work. This will also affect the wages of our Direct Support Professionals who are our lifelines.



There are close to **20,000 Marylanders** who rely on DD services to get up and out of bed in the morning, take medications, shower, eat, and dress, and/or to work, and learn.

If Maryland doesn't fully fund our DDA services, we might end up in hospitals or institutions. We are not going away, and will continue to need support!
I want to live somewhere safe, of my choosing, and be part of the community.

I want to make my own choices, and not be forced into more congregate settings with **lower quality care** because there isn't enough funding for all of us to thrive.



Protect my funding - Don't cut my services.



Please think of me when you make decisions that affect thousands of people. We are your neighbors, your co-workers, your loved ones, and your friends. We need the DDA budget to be fully funded. We are counting on you to **invest in us and protect our civil rights.**

In Solidarity, _____

By and for Marylanders with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

With Support From: MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COALITION
Dedicated to the rights and quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in Maryland

THESE ARE OUR LIVES

A Message For Legislators:

Hello,

My name is _____. I live in _____ (city) and wanted to tell you about the Governor's proposed budget cuts to the DDA for fiscal year 2026. Here is some information about how the cuts would impact me and other people with developmental disabilities living in Maryland.

DDA funds the services that I need to live, work, and thrive in the community. If our funding is cut, these services may be reduced or taken away from me. The thought of losing everything, especially my independence, is scary.

I rely on my Direct Support Professionals to provide critical care. They help me with

_____.

Without my DSP's, who will care for me? I worry that I might end up in a hospital, or an institution.

_____

_____

I am counting on you - Save DD Community Services.

Thank you for listening to my concerns and for all you are doing to protect Marylanders with developmental disabilities like me.

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