

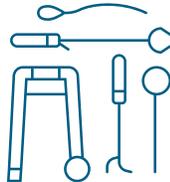
MARYLAND LISS PROGRAM: ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

Learn about proposed changes to the Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) Program & share how it would affect you or your family.



The Governor's FY26 Budget includes a proposed elimination of the Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) Program.

The Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) Program provides recipients with **small grants of up to \$2,000** a year for approved purchases like **respite, home modifications to reduce barriers, adaptive equipment, and summer camps.**



Individuals are eligible to apply for the grant through a **lottery twice a year.**



Recipients can only access funds if they do not receive other Medicaid Waiver Services, meaning **LISS is the only DDA Service these Marylanders receive.**

LISS serves **between 2,000 and 2,500 children and adults** with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and families **a year.**



The needs exceed fund availability for the LISS Program. In FY24, **5,917 applications** were **not selected**. In FY25, another **7,582 applications** were **not selected**.

The projected **FY26 fiscal impact** of eliminating the LISS Program is **roughly \$5.5 million.**



MARYLAND LISS PROGRAM: CONTACTING YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Finding Your Representatives:



You can express the importance of the LISS Program to your representatives in Maryland's House and Senate, who make decisions on the State's budget. Use this [Maryland General Assembly Find My Representatives page](#), click *Lookup*, and enter your address to find your legislators.

At the bottom of the page, you will see your Maryland Legislative District. These are your representatives and people who might be most interested in your story. Click each name to get their phone numbers and emails.

Consider calling them or sending them an email about the LISS Program's impact, and what it means to you or your loved one.

A Sample Message To Share:

I am your constituent, and I am contacting you about the proposed elimination of the Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) Program. The DDA's LISS Program helps thousands of Marylanders each year who do not have access to other Medicaid Waiver Services.

LISS serves between 2,000 and 2,500 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families every year, through small grants of up to \$2,000 a year for approved purchases like respite, home modifications to reduce barriers, adaptive equipment, and summer camps.

LISS is important to me and other Marylanders with IDD and their families. It helps people live independently and thrive in their communities.

[Personalize your message - Include how LISS has impacted you or a loved one!]

I support the LISS program and believe it shouldn't be cut.

Thank you for your time,
Your Name



MARYLAND LISS PROGRAM: USING SOCIAL MEDIA

Find Your Representatives On Social Media:

Another useful advocacy tool for you is social media! Many legislators use social media to hear from their constituents.



Try looking them up on social media sites you use. To find them, look up their name. They will sometimes include their district number and title (Senator, Delegate, etc.) on their pages.

What You Can Share:

Tell your story! Why is this important to you and other Marylanders? Below are some examples of what you could post. Make sure to use **#LissIsALifeline**



Pictures speak louder than words - share a picture of yourself or a loved one using LISS-funded adaptive equipment, respite resources, using grab bars, a ramp, or enjoying summer camp!

*Maryland's proposed budget for 2026 includes the elimination of the DDA's Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) Program. LISS is critical for thousands of Marylanders with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families to live independently and thrive in their communities. **[Personalize your message - Include how LISS has impacted you or a loved one!]** #LissIsALifeline*

The DDA's Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) Program is a proposed cut in Maryland's budget! Without LISS, my family would not have the supports to thrive in the community! #LissIsALifeline

*This is how **[I/My loved one]** used Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) funding to thrive! #LissIsALifeline that helped **[me/us]** and other Marylanders **[how you used funding]**. This will not be possible for families if LISS is cut from the DDA Budget in Maryland.*

MARYLAND LISS PROGRAM: TIPS ON SPEAKING TO LEGISLATORS

Remember the 3 C's:

Connect

The best way to get your point across to legislators is to connect on a human level!

Share a personal story about yourself and being honest on how this would affect you or your loved one is a great way to get your point across.

Sometimes, things can get buried in emails. If you have something important to say, calling your legislator's office can be the best way to communicate it!

You might speak with a staff member instead of your representative - **This is OK!**



Context

Putting things into "context" means giving legislators important background information that they need to make decisions. They may be missing some of the details they need to make good decisions and you might be able to provide that!

Many legislators are part-time - they have other jobs and responsibilities so you cannot assume they will fully understand the issue or your needs unless you explain them fully.

Legislators might have questions for you. Before talking to them, think about what questions they could have and how you would respond!



Concise

There are thousands of bills that your representatives draft, discuss, and vote on during legislative session.

There are also many other people speaking to them about other bills and issues. That can leave legislators with a short amount of time to speak with you.

Use your time with legislators and their staff wisely! Be clear, and quick if possible.

Practice what you want to say and try to say the most important things in the first minute, with supporting information in your second and third minutes with your legislator.



MARYLAND LISS PROGRAM: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Members of specific subcommittees in Maryland's House and Delegates and Senate are very important to talk to about the LISS Program because they are part of the DDA Budget Hearings. You can find out what happens to LISS Program funding during DDA Budget Hearings. This is when legislators will discuss and may make changes to the Governor's proposed budget.

Consider contacting members of the committees below using the contact information provided, especially if you are part of their district!

House Health and Social Services Subcommittee

Part of APP Committee

Emily Shetty, Chair

District 18, Montgomery
emily.shetty@house.state.md.us
410-841-3181

Gabriel Acevero

District 39, Montgomery
gabriel.acevero@house.state.md.us
410-841-3001

Alethia McCaskill

District 44B, Baltimore Co.
aletheia.mccaskill@house.state.md.us
410-841-3692

Dana Jones, Vice Chair

District 30A, Anne Arundel
dana.jones@house.state.md.us
410-841-3211

Jim Hinebaugh, Jr.

District 1A, Garrett & Allegany
jim.hinebaugh@house.state.md.us
410-841-3435

Malcolm Ruff

District 41, Baltimore City
malcolm.ruff@house.state.md.us
410-841-3283

Budget Hearing:

Friday, Feb 28th
2 PM

[Watch it online here by clicking the LIVE button next to the subcommittee name.](#)

Watch In Annapolis:

House Office Building,
Room 120

Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee

Part of B&T Committee

Cory McCray, Chair

District 45, Baltimore City
cory.mccray@senate.state.md.us
410-841-3165

Shelly Hettleman

District 11, Baltimore Co.
shelly.hettleman@senate.state.md.us
410-841-3131

J.B. Jennings

District 39, Baltimore Co. & Harford
jb.jennings@senate.state.md.us
410-841-3706

Craig Zucker

District 14, Montgomery
craig.zucker@senate.state.md.us
410-841-3625

Budget Hearing:

Thursday, Feb 20th
1 PM

[Watch it online here by clicking the LIVE button next to the subcommittee name.](#)

Watch in Annapolis:

Miller Senate Building,
William Amoss Room
4th Floor