

## Individual and Family Support Program FY 2016

The purpose of the Individual and Family Support Program (IFSP) is to assist individuals with intellectual disability (ID) or developmental disabilities (DD) and their family members to access needed person-centered and family-centered resources, supports, services and other assistance as approved by the Department. The overall objective of the Individual and Family Support Program is to support the continued residence of an individual with ID/DD maintain his own home or the family home, which could include the home of a principal caregiver. To accomplish this, IFSP funds, once approved, are distributed directly to the requesting individual or family member or a third party designated by the individual or family member. By Settlement Agreement, a minimum of 1000 individuals are to be assisted per year.

- In the summer of 2015, DBHDS established a workgroup (NIDAC) to assist in the redesign and development of the Individual and Family Supports Program. Through the committee's work, it was concluded that in order to assist more individuals and families, the maximum amount of funding per person in FY 2016 would be reduced from \$3000 to \$1000.
- The committee reviewed information from a number of states that have similar family supports program, especially those that have regional organizations and councils that operate the programs. NIDAC examined the concept of reorganizing the IFSP program into 5 locally operated programs, one for each of the five Developmental Services Regions; Regional Individual Family Council's (RIFCO's).
- The RIFCO's would work more closely with the businesses, neighbors, and other organizations to make the program move from a strictly cash award basis, to one that addresses needs on a more comprehensive basis.
- In November and December, 12 regional community meetings, covering all 5 regions, were held throughout the state and presentations on the new design proposals of the IFSP were given. 180 people attended the meetings; 90-100 of whom expressed interest in learning more about the RIFCO's/501 c 3's/attending future meetings in the region.
- In the spring of 2016, NIDAC recommended that a State Council be established, representing all five regions and consisting mainly of individuals on the Waiver Wait List and their families, that would help continue the redesign of the IFSP. The development of the 5 local councils will begin after the State Council is established.
- The plan for FY 2017 will be for DBHDS and the IFSP State Council to develop the policies and procedures regarding:
  - i. The definition of "comprehensive set of strategies"
  - ii. Development of a planning process that includes the collection and evaluation of data and program outcomes
  - iii. Development and implementation of a public awareness, education, and outreach program.

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- iv. Quality assurance and quality improvement guidelines that include, at a minimum, a measurement of the extent of consumer and family satisfaction with the services and supports of the IFSP program.
- v. Annual evaluation of services, including, but not limited to, consumer satisfaction.
- Additionally, a new database will be developed that will enable individuals and families to apply for IFSP assistance online; it is anticipated that this system will be in operation by the end of November 2016.

### **The results of the FY 2016 funding period is below:**

1) 2943 Applications were approved and funded with \$2,748,147.

The funding breakdown is as follows:

- \$719,435 for Safe Living: Respite/Home repairs/Safety and Security Systems
- \$1,033,637 for Improved Health Outcomes: Medical Care/Therapies/Communication Devices
- \$742,803 for Community Integration: Day Support/Transportation/Summer Camps
- \$252,272 for Emergency Supports: Rent or Mortgage/Utility Assistance