



2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY #1: Fully fund the Medicaid Waiver Priority 1 Waitlist in 2020

Yes, fund waivers for all 3000 plus individuals currently on the Priority 1 waitlist. The Medicaid Waiver Program is the funding source for providing community-based services to people with developmental disabilities.

People qualify for Priority 1 status if they are in **danger of becoming homeless** due to the deteriorating health or death of their caregiver, and significant behavioral and medical reasons. Simply put, they are in crisis.

The General Assembly's **last budget funded only 900** of the needed 3000 Priority 1 waivers. Only 900 of the 3000 people who are experiencing very dire circumstances received any help. In the New River Valley, there are 286 people on the waiting list with 86 of those people on the Priority 1 list. Last year, the New River Valley received 21 waiver slots. Over 75% of the people in our community who desperately need services provided by waiver dollars received a waiver.

This chronic under-funding of community-based supports and services for people with disabilities must stop. Investing in services for our most vulnerable citizens is not only a fiscally sound investment, it is an ethical and moral imperative.



Please contact your legislators in the VA House and Senate and tell them you want them to fully fund the Priority 1 waiting list for people with developmental disabilities. Go here to find contact information for you legislator: <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov>

