



Legislative Summary

2023

UDDC participated in many legislative advocacy and education activities this year, including:

- Meetings with advocacy partner organizations
- Meetings with legislators
- Action alerts
- Emails to legislators on Executive Appropriations Committee
- Emails to legislators on House Business & Labor Committee
- Disability Advocacy Day
- Advocacy Webinar, co-hosted with UPC
- Waitlist, Caregiver Compensation, and SWI Talking Points

SB 106 Caregiver Compensation Amendments

PASSED!!

BACKGROUND

The Medicaid Caregiver Compensation program allows caregivers of individuals enrolled in home and community-based services waivers to be paid for time spent providing their loved one personal care services that constitute extraordinary care. Program participants and their support coordinators have reported significant benefits of the program, including increased system capacity, more autonomy and individualized services, improved wellbeing and financial stability, and an overall increase in quality of life.

Currently, Utah Code 26-18-426 "Medicaid waiver expansion for extraordinary care reimbursement" allows spouses to be compensated for providing care, and the Utah Legislature has already appropriated ongoing funding to support the program long-term. Caregiver compensation for parents and guardians, however, was a temporary program under the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, funded by a one-time appropriation through the end of FY 2023.

NEW LAW

S.B. 106 "Caregiver Compensation Amendments," which was passed during the 2023 General Legislative Session, directs DHHS to apply for permission from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to make caregiver compensation for parents and guardians of waiver enrollees a permanent program. \$2,250,000 was appropriated for this program.

DSPD Waitlist Funding

There are currently about 6,600 people receiving HCBS waiver services from DSPD, and approximately 4,600 people on the waitlist. This year, the legislature appropriated \$3,581,300 to move people off of the waitlist and into services.

OTHER WAITLIST LEGISLATION

HB 242 "Services for People with Disabilities Amendments" would have directed DHHS to determine annually the number of "high priority individuals" on the waitlist, and then directed the legislature to automatically include enough funding in the Social Services base budget to move up to 200 people off of the waitlist and into waiver services (most years).

Although the bill received unanimous support each time it was voted on, it was ultimately not included in the final budget passed by the Executive Appropriations Committee, and was tabled and did not pass in the Senate.



Other Policy Priorities

COMMUNITY ACCESS & SUPPORTS: HCBS WAIVERS & WAIT LISTS

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|---|--------|
| 1. HB 242 Services for People with Disabilities Amendments | Failed |
| 2. HB 290 Medicaid Waiver for Medically Complex Children Amendments | Passed |

COMMUNITY ACCESS & SUPPORTS: CAREGIVERS (DSP & FAMILY)

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| 1. SB 106 Caregiver Compensation Amendments | Passed |
| 2. HB 178 Post-employment Restrictions Revisions | Failed |

COMMUNITY ACCESS & SUPPORTS: EMPLOYMENT

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| 1. HB 13 Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities | Passed |
| 2. HB 549 Minimum Wage Modifications | Failed |

HEALTH & SAFETY

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| 1. SB 101 Peace Officer Training Modifications | Passed |
| 2. HB 29 Mental Health Support and Law Enforcement Co-response | Failed |
| 3. HB 248 Mental Health Services for Adults | Passed |
| 4. HB 252 Disability Coverage Amendments | Failed |
| 5. HB 315 Recreational Therapy Medicaid Coverage Amendments | Passed |
| 6. HB 342 Behavioral Health Services Access Amendments | Failed |
| 7. HB 558 Medicaid Disability Coverage Amendments | Failed |

TRANSPORTATION

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| 1. HB 235 Accessible Parking Spaces Amendments | Passed |
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OTHER

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| 1. SB 104 Master Plan for Aging | Passed |
| 2. HB 23 Forensic Mental Health Amendments | Passed |
| 3. HB 36 Long Term Care Ombudsman Amendments | Passed |
| 4. HB 37/HB 162/HB 448 Voting/Election-related bills | Passed |
| 5. HB 510 Requirements for Supported Decision-Making Agreements | Failed |