

# THE SAFETY OF WYOMING CITIZENS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES IS IN JEOPARDY.



## FAQ: #fundthecost2026

Wyoming's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver system is fragile. On September 1, 2025, providers state-wide faced a 5% overall decrease in reimbursement rates primarily in our 24hr services—an action that will make this current rate unsustainable as providers are unable to maintain current levels of service needs.

### Why is there a cost study?

The Wyoming Department of Health is legally required to commission a rate study to establish a cost-based reimbursement system to pay for home and community based waiver services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries. These costs are examined to provide rates that are fair, adequate, and aligned with the actual cost of delivering services. The most recent study, conducted by Guidehouse, examines whether current rates are sufficient to recruit and retain staff, maintain quality of care, and sustain provider agencies and is used to inform discussion about increases in reimbursement rates.

See full rate study here:



### What is the Guidehouse study and why should I trust it?

Guidehouse, Inc. is a global professional services consulting firm delivering advisory services to the commercial and governmental sectors. Guidehouse worked closely with Wyoming Department of Health and key stakeholders through July 2024 to develop proposed reimbursement rates for providers. The State of Wyoming paid \$227,000 to conduct the study. The information contained and explained in the study is data driven, and is based on information provided by both small and large providers; key state agency staff; family representatives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and legislators. Among their outcomes, Guidehouse developed a rate model that is reflective of actual service delivery costs.

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## What are we asking for exactly?

We are asking the Wyoming Legislature to fully fund the actual cost of waiver services, as reported by Guidehouse, for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This requires an additional \$12 million each year (or \$24 million for the biennium) from the state. The federal government will match these funds dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact. Without this funding, provider agencies cannot pay competitive wages for direct care staff, providers are unable to accept people off of the waitlist, and people risk losing essential services.

## Why were provider rates cut on September 1, 2025?

The Department of Health raised provider rates in conjunction with the previous rate study. The State chose to pay for these increased costs by using temporary ARPA funding. The State chose not to continue those rates when ARPA money expired. Unfortunately, this regressive choice to 2019 rates came at a time when providers were already struggling with outdated and insufficient rates, workforce shortages, and increased costs of care.

## So are providers actually expected to operate under insufficient rates from 2019?

Yes. Most of the services in the current reimbursement system are based on rates set in 2019. This is both dangerous and unsustainable given rising wages, inflation, and workforce shortages.

## What are reimbursement rates expected to cover?

- Direct Support Professional wages and benefits.
- Training, which includes: direct care needs, medical needs, physical assistance, adaptive equipment, communication challenges, and assistance in managing money.
- Staff Certifications in CPR/First Aid, Medications Assistance Training, Crisis Intervention, Positive Behavior Support, and Trauma-informed Care.
- Transportation costs, including car payments, fuel, and auto insurance.
- Administrative costs, including liability coverage, billing, compliance, and facility maintenance.
- 24-hour on-call support.

## Who do I contact to help promote #fundthecost2026?

Please scan the QR code provided for additional information:



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