

Fact Sheet: The HCBS Relief Act (H.R. 4029/S. 2076)

Why is the HCBS Relief Act Needed?

In the US, there are 61 million people with disabilities, many of whom rely on Medicaid long-term services and supports (LTSS) to support their everyday needs, from assistance with activities of daily living to community integration supports. While most individuals prefer to receive these services in their own homes, a longstanding workforce shortage of direct support workers hinders individuals' access to community-based services.

Years of underinvestment in Medicaid-funded HCBS have made it difficult for providers to offer wages and benefits that are competitive with other industries, contributing to persistent vacancies and high turnover among direct support professionals.

These workforce challenges have direct consequences for people with disabilities: providers are increasingly forced to turn away referrals, delay new programs, and shutter services because they do not have enough staff. Additional federal investment is necessary to stabilize the workforce and ensure that people with disabilities can access the community-based services they need.

What Would the HCBS Relief Act Do?

The HCBS Relief Act provides much-needed support for the Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services program. The bill would:

- Provide a 10-percentage-point increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for home and community-based services during 2026 and 2027
- Enable states and providers to strengthen the direct support workforce
- Ensure better access to I/DD services

In a 2026 ANCOR survey of community-based providers of disability services:

85%

of providers experienced moderate to severe staffing shortages

55%

of providers reported that they have turned away new referrals due to staff shortages

57%

of providers are considering delaying the launch of new programs due to the workforce crisis

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