



Support Aging Families

Families are the long-term care system for individuals with I/DD. 16,306 (55.5%) adults who are served by DDA live with and receive care from a parent or relative. It is estimated that more than 2000 individuals over the age of 40 are living with an aging parent.

One of the biggest concerns of families is “what happens when I am no longer here?” They need assurance that supports and services will be in place when they are no longer able to provide care. Aging family caregivers need support to help plan for the future. They need help navigating the system, making decisions about housing, and general planning for the future.

We Need a Plan that:

Prioritizes senior families in receiving services, including preference for the Core waiver which gives access to residential supports. Currently they are not prioritized because the *individual* is not in crisis--but the *family* is. We need to ensure that there are services in place before the family caregiver is unable to provide care and the person goes in crisis.

Makes future planning and supports a DDA service. Having dedicated navigators and/or facilitators to help families make plan and navigate the system would keep individuals and their families out of crisis, when they no longer can provide care.

