

## 2015-16 Alliance Budget Priorities

### Address Waiting Lists for Services

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The last two budget years have seen great progress in shrinking and eliminating waiting lists for services. Alliance urges Colorado to build on this momentum by:

- Implementing the plan outlined in HB 14-1051 to eliminate the waiting list for the HCBS-DD (“Comprehensive Services”) waiver, including a collaborative approach to funding and waiver design, resource enhancement, and capacity development within the community support system.
- Continuing the commitment to eliminate the waiting list for the Supported Living Services waiver.
- Continuing to increase funding for the Family Services and Support Program (FSSP).
- Appropriating adequate new resources for Children’s Extensive Support (CES) services to ensure that the waiting list for this program does not recur.
- Continuing to fund State-funded Supported Living Services for those individuals who do not qualify for Medicaid waiver services.

### Create Viable Community Provider Rates

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Community capacity is a critical component of the plan to address the waiting list. We appreciate the efforts of the Governor’s Office, the JBC and the legislature to partially restore rates in the past legislative session. However, community provider rates continually fail to keep pace with inflation, while the cost of providing quality services continues to rise each year. This disparity must be addressed in order to ensure ongoing access to providers and services statewide. Alliance urges Colorado to:

- Increase community provider rates to ensure quality services and supports, and to enable providers to strengthen and build community capacity to utilize newly appropriated resources as soon as possible.
- Fund a study to examine I/DD service rates beyond the lens of common policy decisions and establish a rate structure that reflects the actual cost of providing services. Rates associated with I/DD services deserve special consideration, primarily because there are no other payment sources to rely on – Medicaid pays for approximately 95% of services associated with I/DD, and therefore providers are more reliant on the rates set within the state budget.

### Alliance’s Annual Budget Requests

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| • Emergency Resources         | • Children Aging out of Foster Care |
| • Early Intervention Services | • Children Aging out of CES         |