

# Support Aging Caregivers of People with Disabilities

Aging caregivers and individuals with IDD should not have to wait until they or their loved one reach a crisis point to get assistance. Colorado has long sought ways to eliminate the waiting list for comprehensive IDD services. Currently, there are approximately 2,900 people on the waiting list, most of whom have been waiting for years or decades. We estimate that approximately 400 of these people are aged 55 or older and may have a custodial caregiver aged 75 or older.

Currently, these caregivers must continue to provide support until their loved one's name comes to the top of the list, or until an emergency occurs when the caregiver dies or can no longer physically provide supports.

**MEET AN AGING CAREGIVER...**



"I have a son name Micah who is 37 years old. He has autism, including intellectual and social impairments. Unfortunately, he could never live on his own since he is "at risk" and needs 24/7 care. I have taken care of him all his life. He was on the wait list for DD-waiver comprehensive services and when his name came up in the past, we would decline because it meant we would have to break our family up to place him in a host home. However, when the "Family Caregiver" option became available, those much needed funds we were able to receive for Micah's care helped tremendously as I have been a single mother most of Micah's life. But after moving out of state for a year and a half, we were placed back on the wait list upon returning to Colorado and he can now only qualify for comprehensive supports if there is an emergency. This concept is extremely difficult to understand. Micah's need for constant care seems to be, by definition, already an emergency situation. It is clearly not a typical family life. The limitations, compromises, and demands are never ending. Obviously, I am getting on in years. I cannot even imagine what life would be like for Micah without me. It would be devastating to say the least. We have applied for comprehensive services hoping to get some much needed support, due to extenuating circumstances. It is my sincere hope that the State of Colorado will choose to provide the necessary funds for people on the waiting list with aging caregivers like me, instead of waiting for our family to become an emergency."

**- Vida Lee Dubinsky, mother to Micah**

Please contact Emma Hudson, Alliance's Director of Government & Community Relations, for more information or with questions:  
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