Changing the Landscape of Living Options for People with IDD: Medicaid-Funded Supports in Family Homes and Individualized Settings

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Background:
The National Residential Information Systems Project (RISP) and the Family Information Systems Project (FISP) are Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities’ Projects of National Significance. Since 1977 the University of Minnesota has maintained and analyzed longitudinal data on Medicaid funded residential and in-home supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The FISP project expanded the effort to gather information about the ages of people with IDD living in community settings. The RISP and FISP projects conduct longitudinal data analysis, policy studies, and dissemination activities to better understand and promote effective supports for families and individuals with IDD.

Supporting Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and their Families: Status and Trends through 2013. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Research and Training Center on Community Living, Institute on Community Integration.

Funding Authorities:
Community-based supports and services have grown as the number of Medicaid funding authorities has grown. The most used funding authorities in 2014 was the Medicaid 1915(c) Waiver authority (used by 46 states). A growing number of Waiver authorities has helped states to offer more consumer control over supports and services.

People with IDD Living with Family Members:
The number of people with IDD getting Medicaid funded supports while living in the home of a family member has increased dramatically. Of the 1.3 million long-term supports and services (LTSS) recipients with IDD in 2013, 630,367 lived in the home of a family member including 366,271 who received Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver funded supports. Average annual waiver expenditures in 2013 were $14,950 for children, and $24,515 for adults living with a family member. Expenditures were high for those living in other types of settings.

Changes in Living Arrangements:
Since 1977, the primary living arrangements for individuals with IDD not living with family members has shifted from large institutions to small, community homes. In 2013, half of people living outside of their family home live in individualized settings of three of fewer people.