

**NC Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services**

# **Inclusion Connects Community Advisory Committee Meeting**

**January 29, 2026**

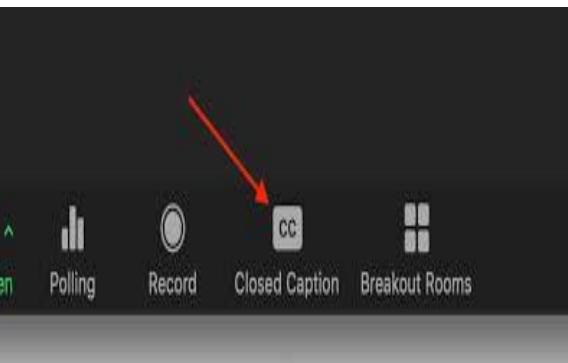
# Housekeeping

- Reminders about the webinar technology:

- Please make sure you are using a computer or smart phone connected to the internet, and the audio function is on, and the volume is turned up.
- Please make sure your microphone is muted for the duration of the call unless you are speaking or asking questions.
- Questions can be submitted any time during the presentation using the “Q&A” box located on your control panel, and we will answer as many questions as time allows after the presentation.

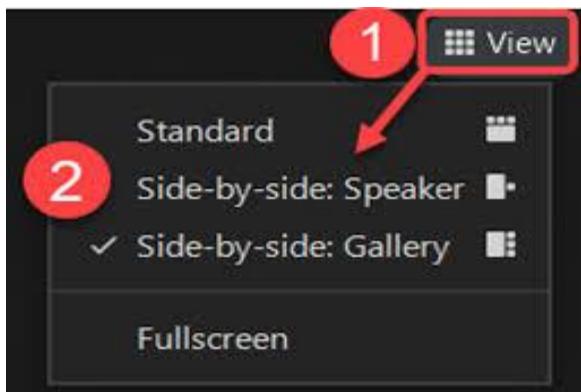


# Housekeeping



- American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters and Closed-Captioning
  - ASL Interpreters and Closed-Captioning options will be available for today's event.
  - For closed-captioning options select the "Closed Caption" feature located on your control panel.

Intérpretes y subtítulos en lengua de signos americana (ASL). Habrá intérpretes de ASL y opciones de subtítulos disponibles para el evento de hoy. Para opciones de subtítulos, seleccione la función "Subtítulos" ubicada en su panel de control.



- Adjusting Video Layout and Screen View
  - Select the "View" feature located in the top-right hand corner of your screen.

# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Inclusion Connects Background
3. Overview of the Inclusion Connects Advisory Committee
4. Findings from the Jan. 15, 2026 Quarterly Report
5. Innovations Waiver Waitlist Dashboard
6. Interpersonal Violence Supports and Updates
7. Q&A

# **Tina Barrett, MA, LPA, HSP-PA**

## **Assistant Director, I/DD**

### **IDD, TBI & Olmstead Section, DMH/DD/SUS**



- MA in Psychology
- Licensed Psychological Associate
- More than 30 years of experience providing clinical and administrative services to people with IDD
- DMH/DD/SUS since 2023

# Inclusion Connects Background

# Inclusion Connects Background

Inclusion Connects is an NCDHHS program to connect people with I/DD to more choices and more access to services and supports. It is designed to help people with I/DD, regardless of age or ability level, and their families navigate the complex system of services from birth to the end of life.



Link to Inclusion Connects Website

## Inclusion Connects Activities



### Supporting the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce:

Addresses workforce shortages and connects DSPs with providers and people with I/DD.



### Promoting Access to Services:

Focuses on providing access to necessary services, including those on the Innovations Waiver Waitlist.



### Improving Housing Access:

Enhances the housing options available for people with I/DD.



### Strengthening Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Supports:

Prevent IPV for people with I/DD and provide trauma-informed information and tools.



### Inclusion Works:

Expand support employment services and increase access to Competitive Integrated Employment



# Inclusion Connects Workplan

**The Inclusion Connects Work Plan is North Carolina's strategy to improve services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD)**

- Detailed descriptions of activities to improve access to services, more housing choices, and strengthening the workforce.
- Includes metrics and targets

The original workplan was posted in  
**March 2025.**

Next update will occur in spring 2026.

Visit [Inclusion Connects | NCDHHS](#) to read the full workplan.

And join us on **March 9 at Side by Side with DMH/DD/SUS** to review the Updated Workplan. [Register today!](#)



# Inclusion Connects Advisory Committee Overview

Quarterly Meetings at 11:00am – [Registration Link](#)

## 2026 Meetings:

January 29, 2026
April 20, 2026
July 20, 2026
October 19, 2026

### Reminders:

- RSVP to Calendar Invitations
- Come prepared with questions and ideas about the Inclusion Connects program
- Reach out to [tina.l.barrett@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tina.l.barrett@dhhs.nc.gov) if you know other individuals who would like to participate in Advisory Committee

If there is a specific topic you would like NCDHHS to cover during the Advisory Committee, please reach out to Tina Barrett ([tina.l.barrett@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:tina.l.barrett@dhhs.nc.gov)) and we will add it to the agenda for our next meeting.

# Inclusion Connects Advisory Committee (ICAC)



Focuses on researching, recommending, and supporting the implementation of best practices to improve services and supports for individuals with I/DD

## Monthly Workgroups



### Community Living

Supporting community access and helping people to live and thrive in their chosen setting



### Access to Services

Improving service models, training, and provider guidelines to ensure high-quality I/DD services



### DSP Workforce

Recruiting, training, and retaining DSPs to support the growing needs of the I/DD community



### Inclusion Works

Expanding supported employment services in North Carolina



### Interpersonal Violence

Creating collaboration between the providers, TPs, and IPV experts in response to state CFAC recommendations



### Tailored Plans

Working group for TP members and DHHS to discuss any recommended updates needed

## Other Workgroups

Other workgroups will be formed as needed to make progress toward specific tasks or challenges.

# Jan. 15, 2026 Quarterly Report Findings

# Data and Reporting – January 15 Inclusion Connects Report

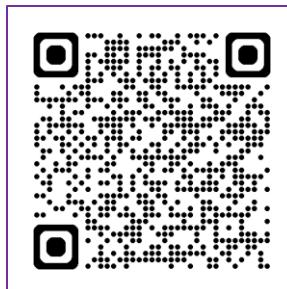
Inclusion Connects released its **fifth quarterly report and report summary on January 15, 2026**. This report highlights our progress in enhancing service access and support for people with I/DD in North Carolina.



Visit the QR code to explore the **Quarterly Report**, which includes detailed reporting and updates on key activities across Access to Services, Community Living, and DSP Workforce.



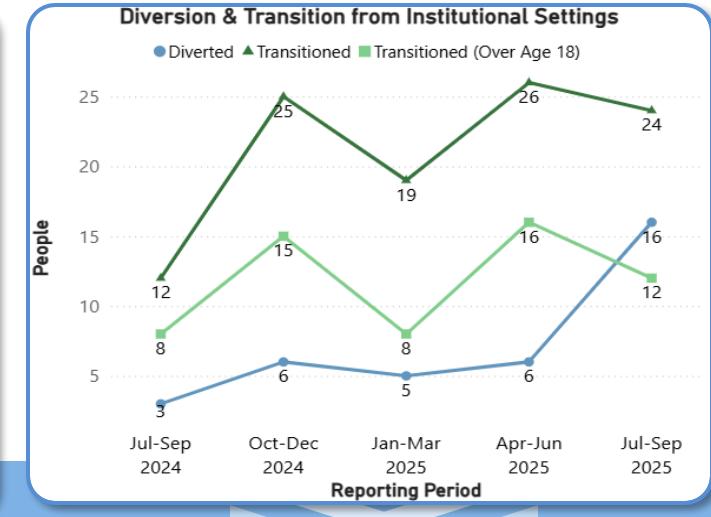
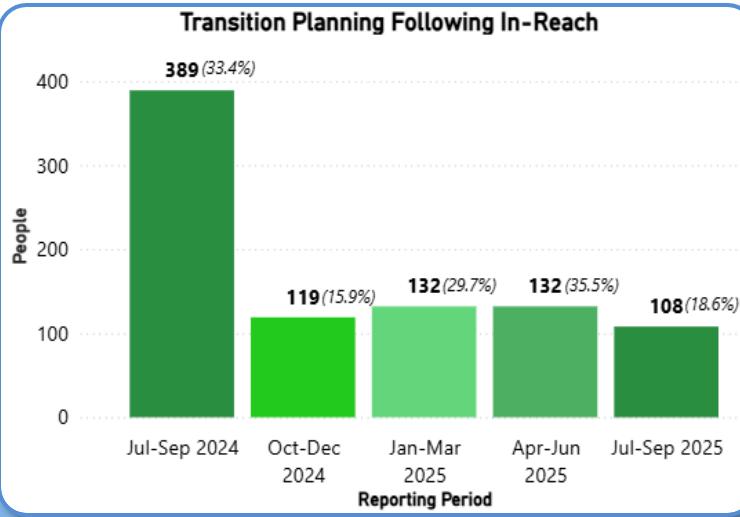
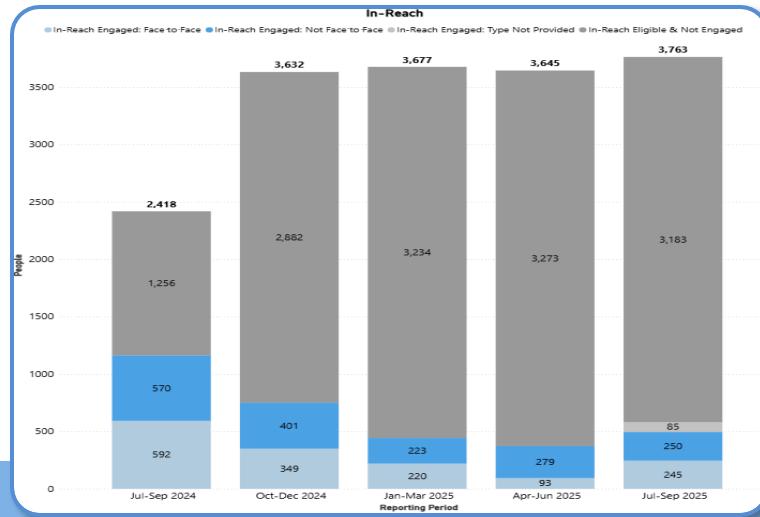
Visit the QR code to explore the **Data Summary**, which offers views of key metrics from the Quarterly Report.



Visit the QR code to watch a **Video Walkthrough** of the report's primary findings and metrics, in an accessible way.

# Transition & Housing Overview

Please note metrics may fluctuate as data quality improves, reflecting more accurate populations and cleaner, more reliable data. Current data is sourced from LME/MCO reporting.

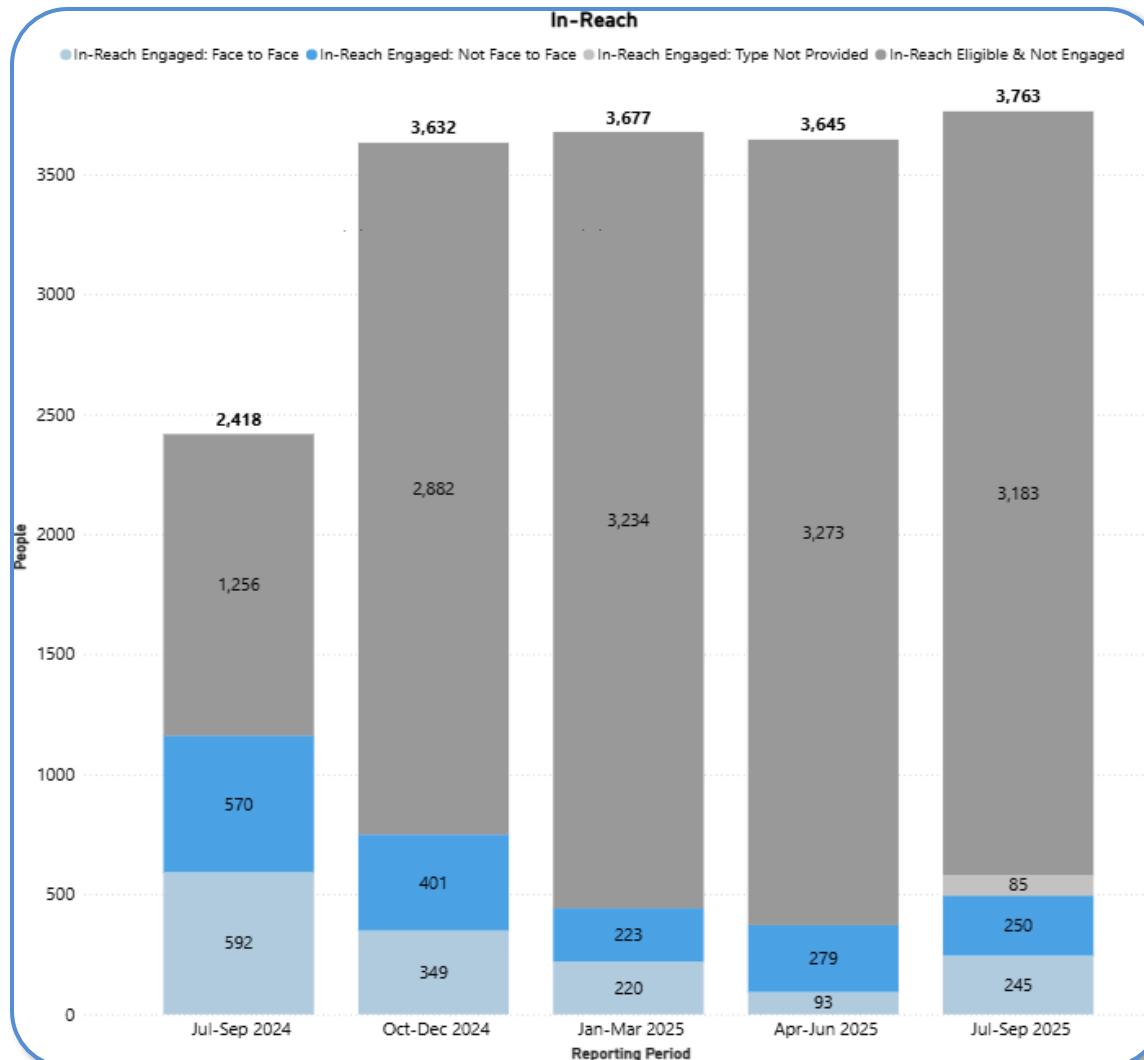


- The total number of members reported living in institutional settings remains stable across LME/MCOs.
- In-Reach efforts reflect internal policies of each LME/MCO.

- Percentages are calculated using the number of people eligible for In-Reach each reporting period. This includes all those living in institutional settings.

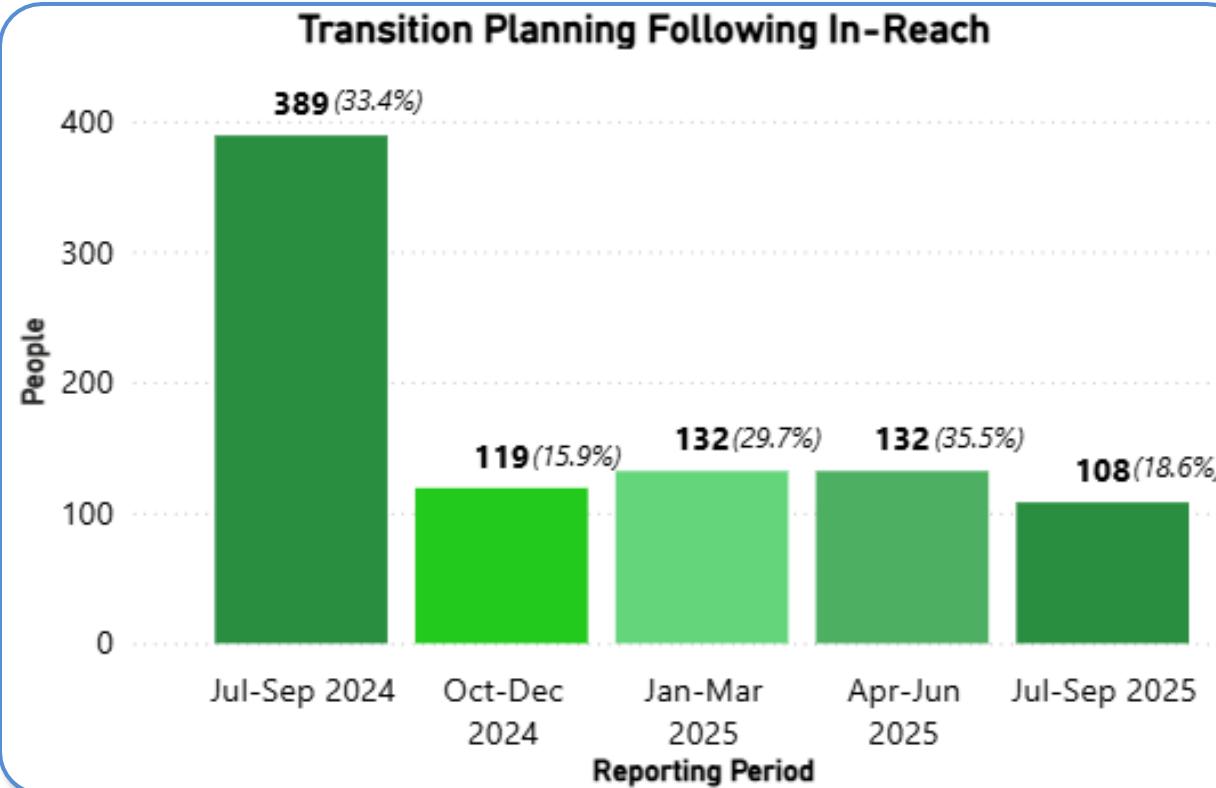
- NCDHHS continues to work with the LME/MCOs to ensure people eligible for diversion are tracked correctly.
- Transition data from the Money Follows the Person program are included.

# Transition & Housing



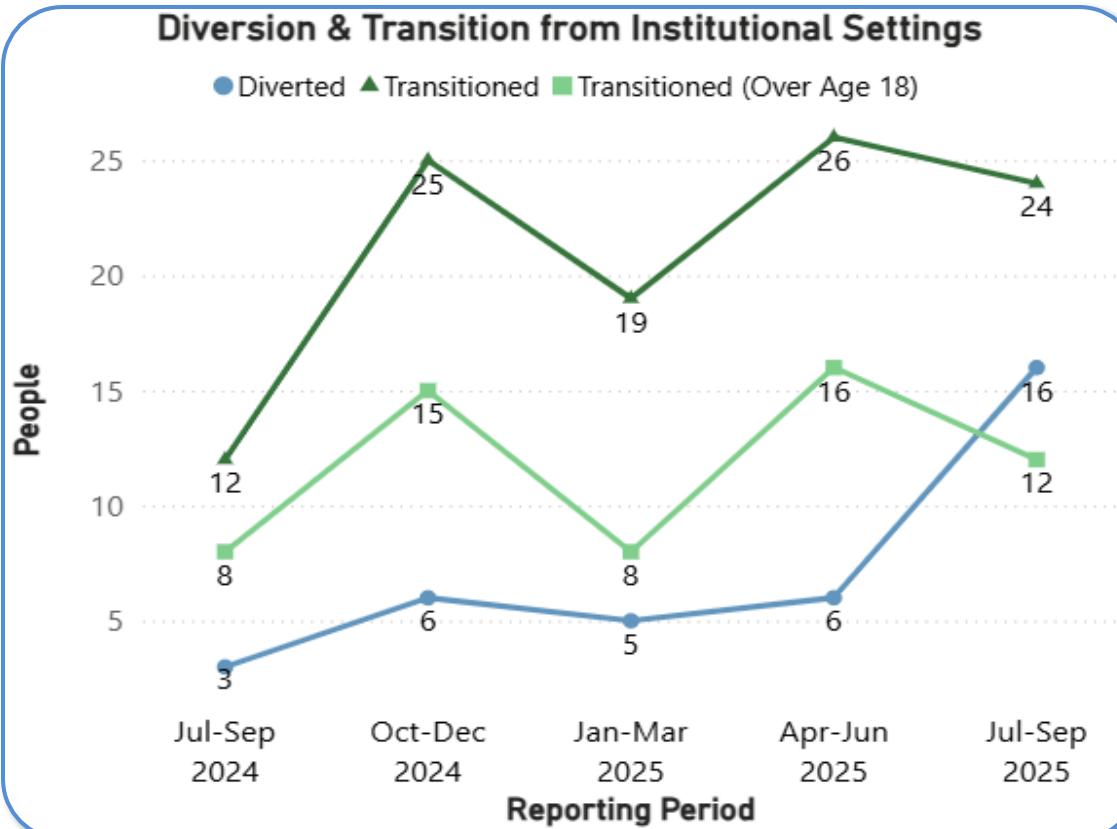
## In-Reach

- In-Reach involves educating people with disabilities in institutional settings on the benefits and availability of community-based services.
- In-Reach staff also offers visits to community-based settings and opportunities to meet other people with disabilities who are living, working and receiving services in inclusive settings.
- In-Reach involves face-to-face and virtual discussions with each person, depending on their preference. The goal is to support people in making the best living decision for themselves.



## Transition Planning

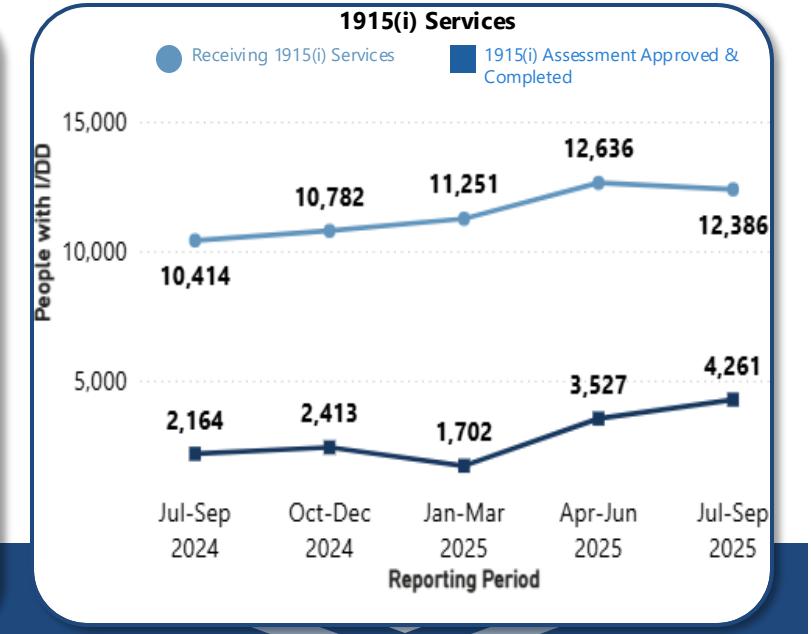
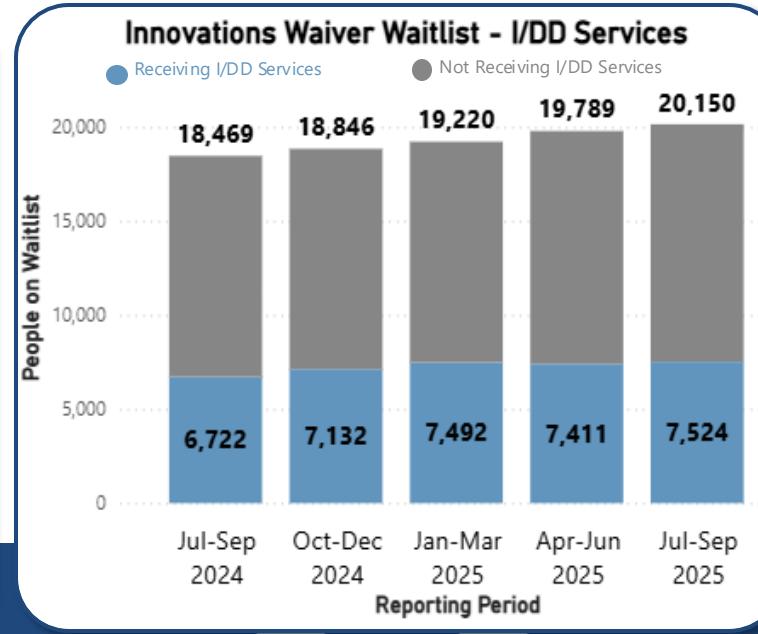
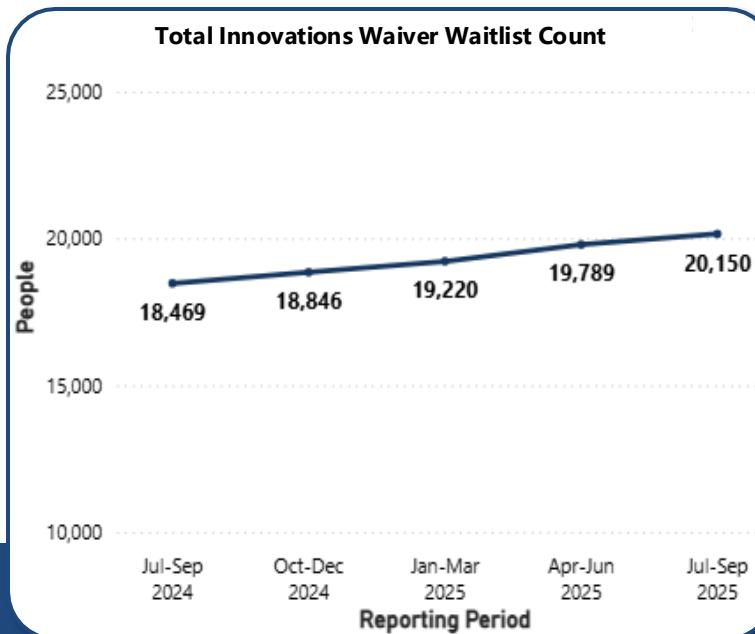
- In-Reach education allows people with disabilities to make an informed choice about where they want to live and receive services.
- The goal of transition planning is to make sure the person has the supports they need to move into the community living option of their choice, if it is a good fit.



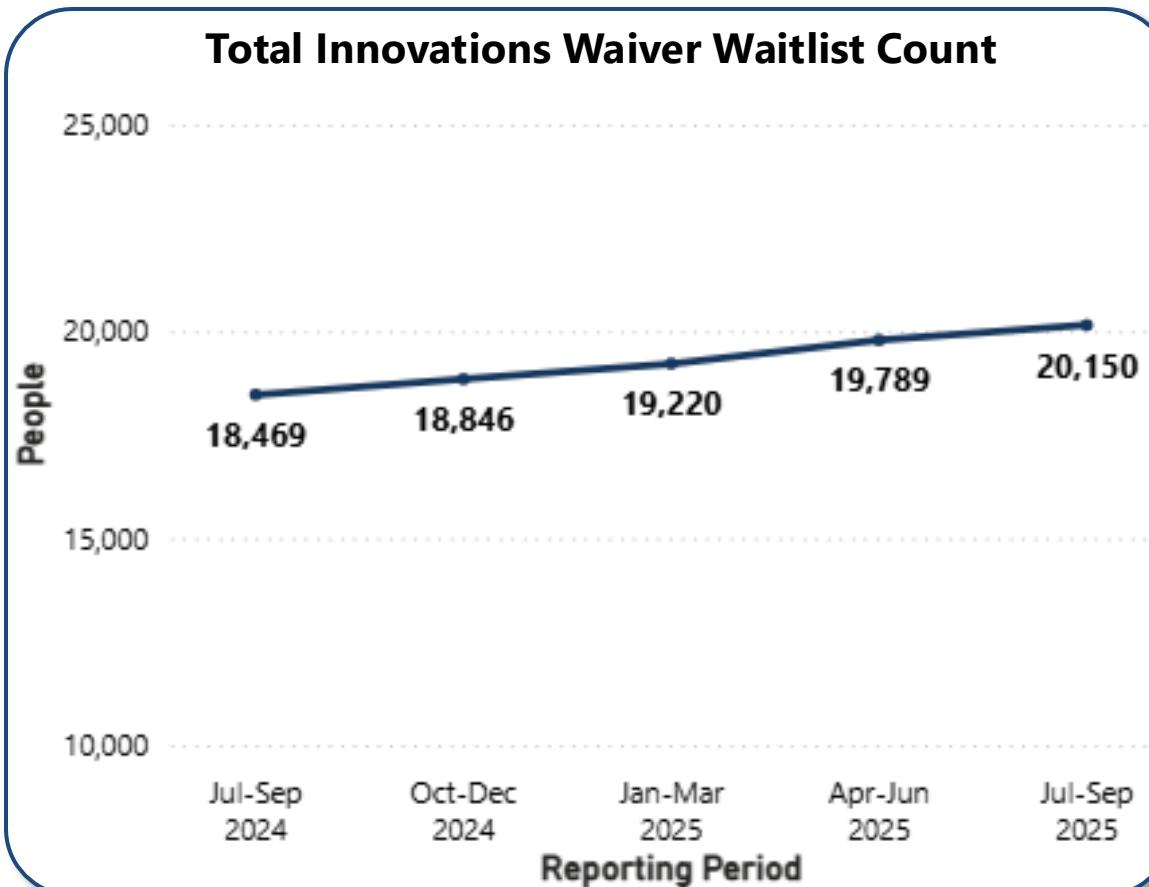
## Diversion

- Diversion involves identifying people with I/DD who may be at risk of moving into an institution and **providing them with extra supports and services** to help them stay in their own homes and neighborhoods.
- Diversion means making sure every person can get important services like Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), special waivers, or state programs. These supports help them stay independent and avoid moving into an institution.

# Services Overview



- The Innovations Waiver Waitlist continues to grow, reflecting **increasing awareness and need for services within the I/DD community**.
- The number of people receiving I/DD services continues to grow relative to growth of the Innovations Waiver - showing that while the **demand for services increases, access is also expanding**.
- People with approved 1915(i) assessments are new each reporting period, but those receiving 1915(i) services may overlap across periods.



## Innovations Waiver

- The Innovations Waiver gives people with I/DD the most services and support at home, in the community, and at work. It helps them live and do well in community settings. The waiver offers person-centered plans made to fit each person's needs.
- Unfortunately, there are not enough waiver slots to allow for everyone, which leads to a growing waitlist.
- Values for Oct – Dec 2024 and Jan – Mar 2025 have been updated to reflect more complete data identified during routine data checks.



## Inactive Assigned Slots - Some Reasons Slots May be Assigned to Member but Inactive:



### At Beginning of Slot Assignment Process

(Can last up to 90 days)



### Disability Determination In Progress



### Deceased

(Slot Not Yet Reassigned)

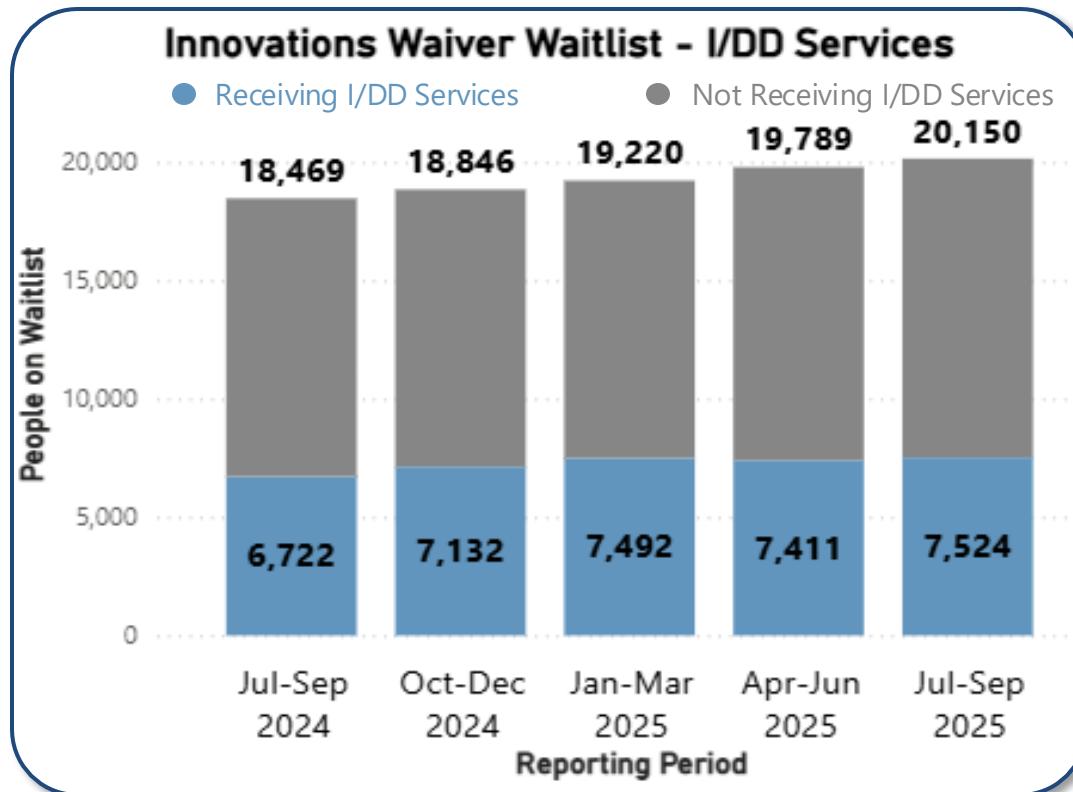


### In Institutional Setting

(Assigned Slot Temporarily Held at Member's Request)

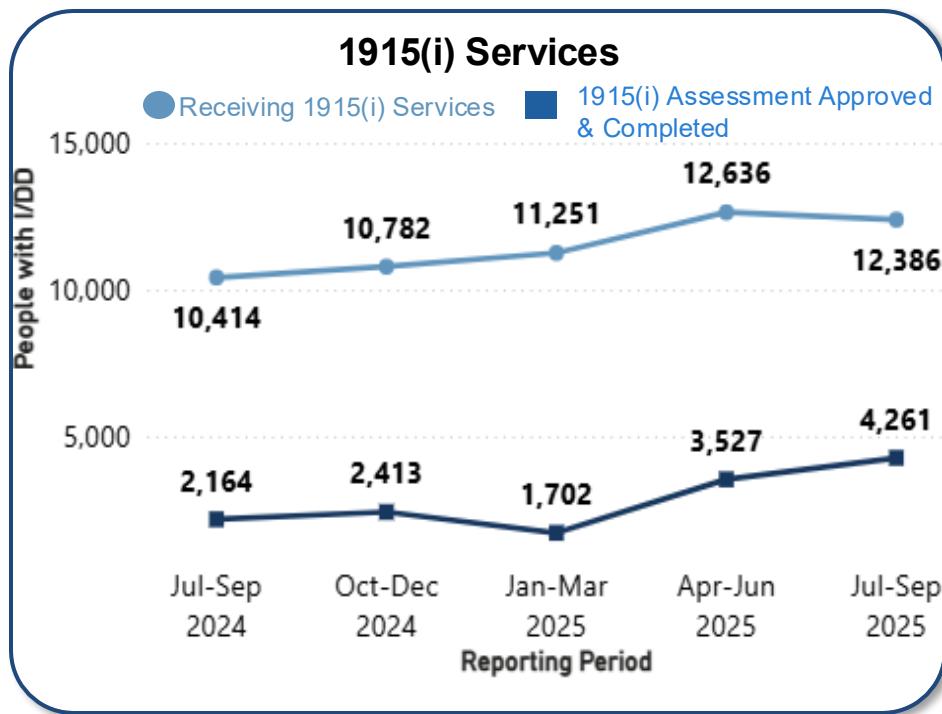


### Inpatient and Transitioning



## I/DD Services

- Like the Innovations Waiver, I/DD services in North Carolina provide for people with I/DD to help them live independently and fully in their communities. This can help improve quality of life and reduce reliance on institutional care.
- Approximately **one third of people** on the waitlist are currently receiving I/DD services outside of the Innovations Waiver while they wait for a slot.



#### 1915(i) Services Include:\*

1. Community Living and Supports
2. Supported Employment
3. Respite
4. Community Transition

\*1915(i) Services do **NOT** include Tailored Care Management (TCM).

## 1915(i) Services

- 1915(i) is a Medicaid program in North Carolina that helps people with I/DD, mental health needs, substance use disorders, or traumatic brain injuries get care at home or in their communities.
- To get started, a person contacts their LME/MCO to request an assessment, which is completed within 90 days. After this, a personalized support plan is created for each person.
- The program gives people important services that can help with all their needs. It also supports people while they are on the Innovations Waiver waitlist. 1915(i) services may even fully meet a person's needs, making the Innovations Waiver unnecessary.



# Innovations Waiver Waitlist Overview

Reporting Period

9/30/25

Tailored Plan

All

## Demographics

**20,150**

**6,316**

**12,884**

Total Waitlist Count

Females

Males

**<11**

Gender - Other

**950**

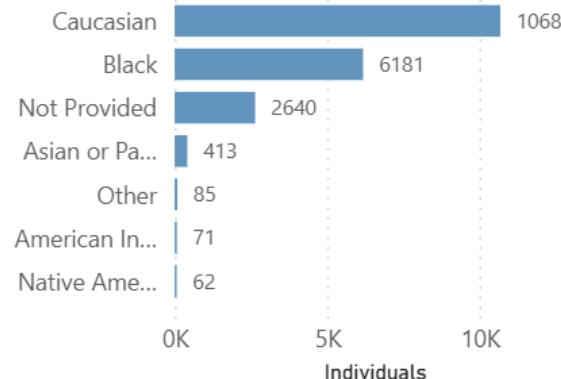
Gender Not Provided

**19**

Average Age

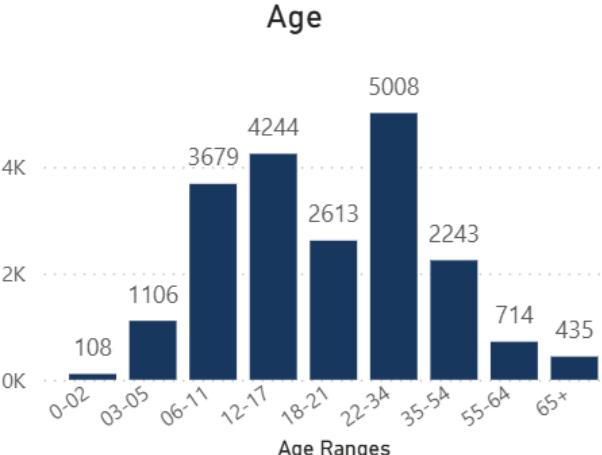
### Race Distribution

Race



### Age

Individual Count

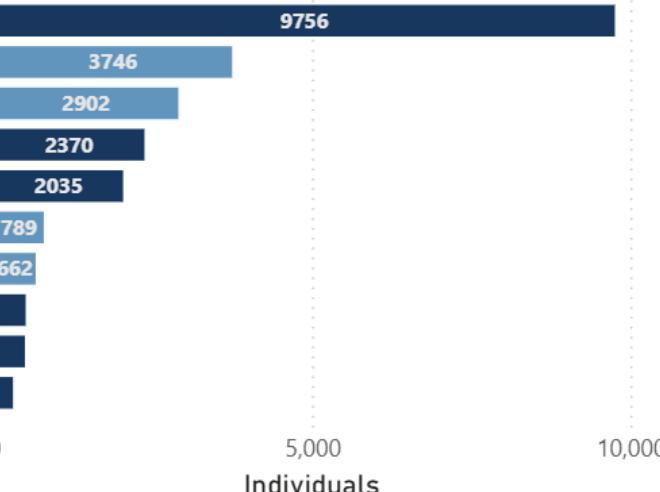


## Diagnosis Information

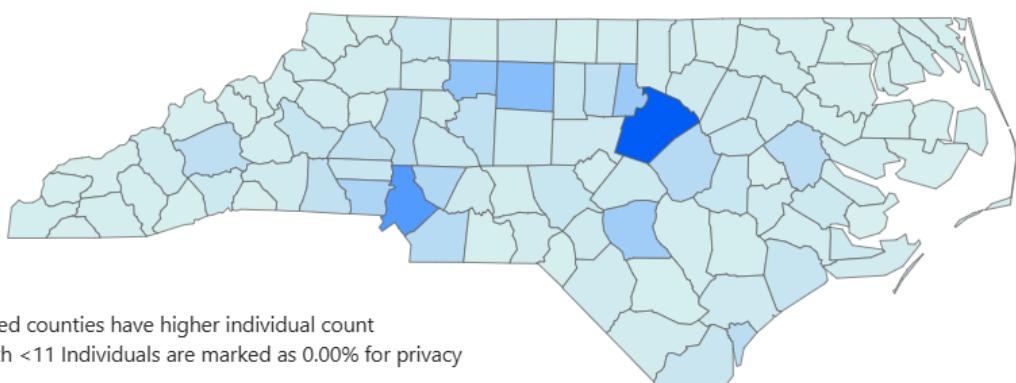
### Diagnoses

Qualifying IDD Diagnosis?  N  Y

Autism Spectrum Disorder ...  
Mild intellectual disabilities...  
Moderate intellectual disa...  
Not Provided  
Unspecified Intellectual Dis...  
Severe Intellectual disabiliti...  
Down Syndrome (Q90.9 or ...  
Other disorders of psychol...  
Mixed receptive-expressive...  
Cerebral palsy, unspecified...



## Innovations Waitlist Individuals by County



## Upcoming Enhancements

The rollout of this Innovations Waitlist Dashboard will be in waves. As we continue to source data for this dashboard, the following information is expected to be added as the dashboard is refined and expanded:

**1. Living Arrangements:** Visuals to track the current living arrangements of individuals

As this dashboard is rolled out, other dashboards with similar reporting may not be updated

[Go To Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Last Updated: 1/13/2026



# Innovations Waiver Waitlist

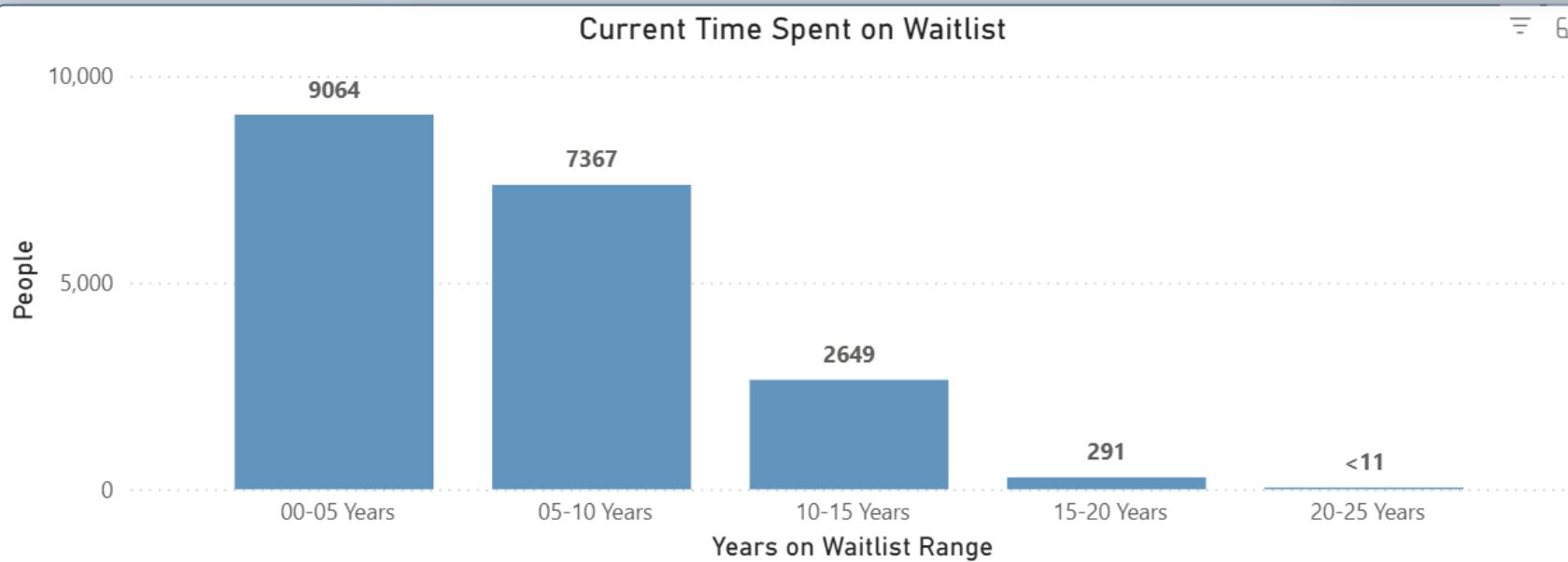
Report End Date

09/30/25

Tailored Plan

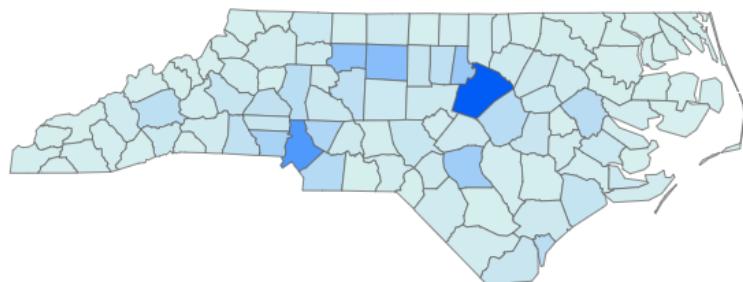
All

All Counties



County	Average Wait (Years)	Waitlist Count
Alamance	6.01	212
Alexander	7.33	26
Alleghany	5.32	13
Anson	5.21	27
Ashe	7.30	26
Avery	8.39	12
Beaufort	4.40	64
Bertie	2.44	13
Bladen	5.31	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.77</b>	<b>19344</b>

## Innovations Waitlist Individuals by County



5.77

Average Time on Waitlist (Years)

Year Range	Average of Years on Waitlist
00-05 Years	2.32
05-10 Years	7.48
10-15 Years	11.65
15-20 Years	16.27
20-25 Years	21.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.77</b>

## Disclaimers

The information presented here reflects the average amount of time that individuals currently on the Innovations Waiver Waitlist have already waited. It does not represent the length of time until individuals begin receiving Innovations Waiver services. This data should not be used to estimate how long someone may wait before accessing Innovations Waiver services.

The information shown on this page includes only people who are *currently* on the Innovations Waiver Waitlist and have **never been offered** a waiver slot.

A total of 750+ people have previously been offered a slot but chose to remain on the waitlist for various reasons. These people are **not included** in the counts or averages shown on this page.



# Innovations Waiver Waitlist - Services

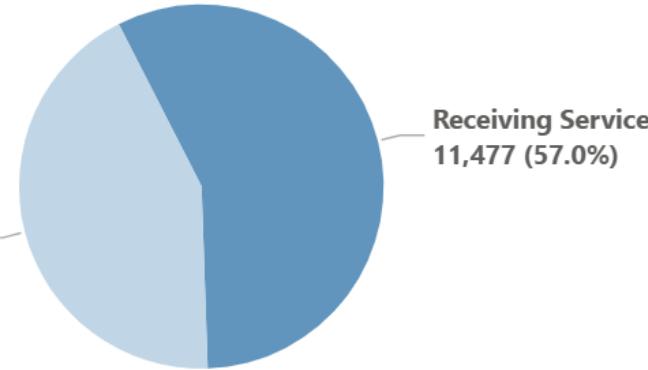
Reporting Period

9/30/2025

Tailored Plan

All

## How Many People are Receiving Services?



Notes:

Percentages differ from published quarterly reports because this metric is inclusive of a wider list of services.

Average Number of Services Received  
Per Person

2

Percent of Individuals that have Medicaid

81%

## Disclaimers

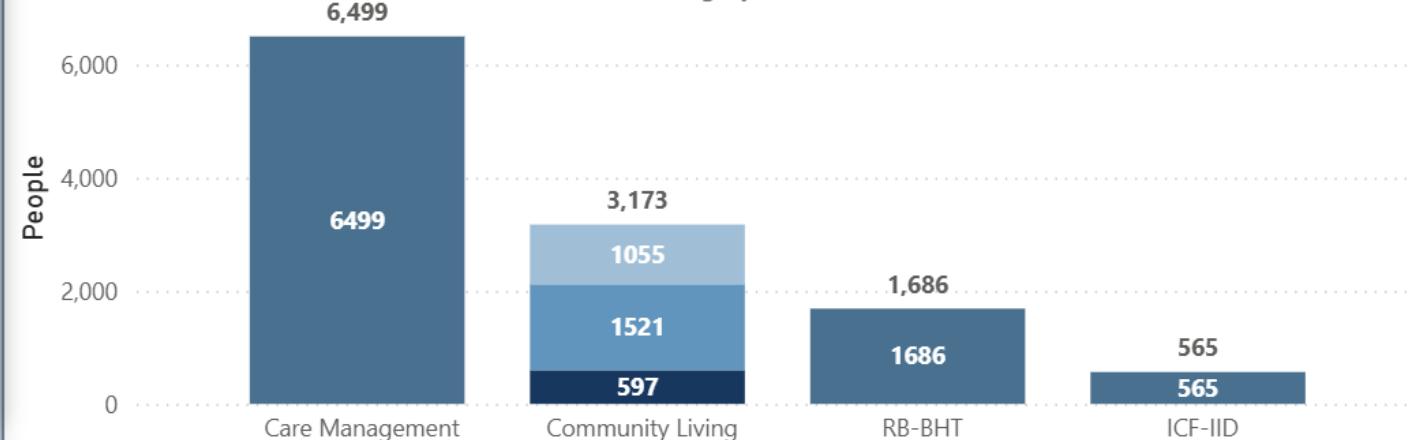
Data for service metrics are sourced from Claims & Encounter data. Some people on the Innovations Waiver Waitlist may not be present in Claims & Encounter data. For reporting visuals, these people were counted as 'Not Receiving Services' as they had not received services through DMH/DD/SUS or DHB during the given reporting period.

The average number of services received accounts for only people receiving services, and not those who aren't receiving services.

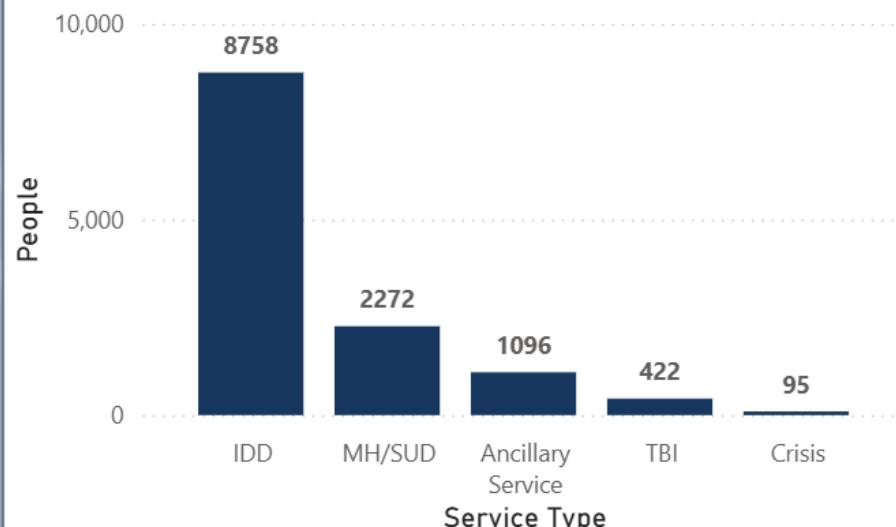
## I/DD Specific Service Categories Utilized

Please click on the "i" icon to view the Service Category Disclaimers for more information

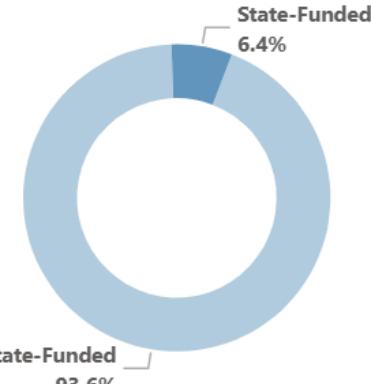
Hover over each category to find additional details



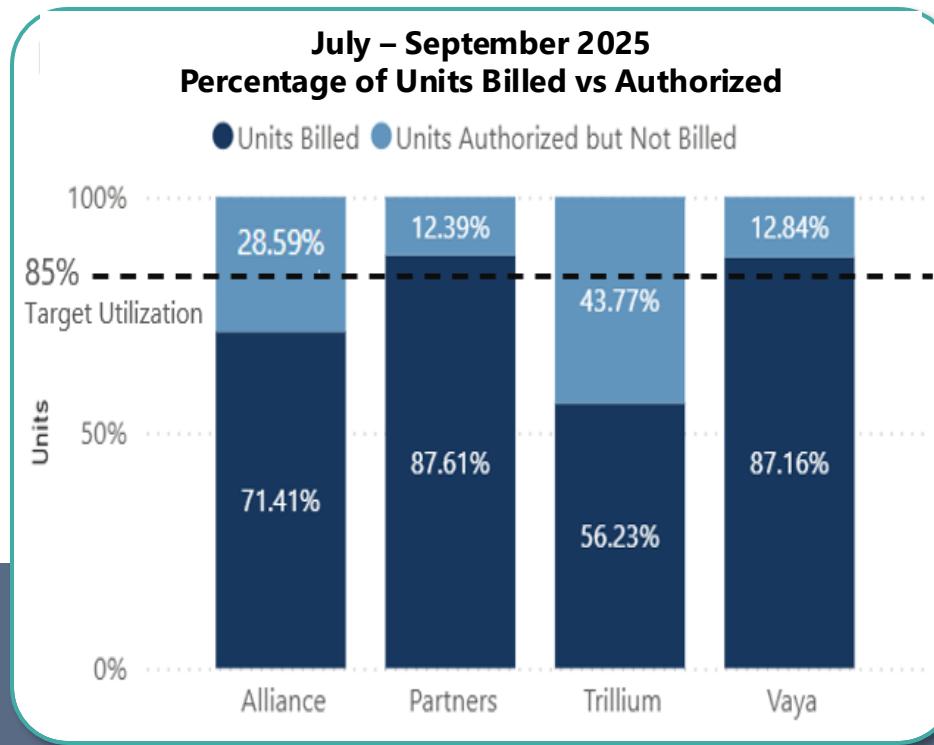
## Service Types Utilized



## How Many Services are State-Funded?



# Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce Overview



- **Utilization rates** represent authorized Community Living and Support (CLS) services provided to people on the **Innovations Waiver**.
- The Department is looking into utilization rate data quality and taking necessary steps to ensure all LME/MCOs report this information in the same way.
- While improvements in data quality have been seen, the Department continues to engage with the LME/MCOs to understand discrepancies in reporting and ensure accurate data.

# Interpersonal Violence and IDD/TBI

# Interpersonal Violence and IDD/TBI Overview

## What is Interpersonal Violence (IPV)?

Interpersonal violence (IPV) happens when a person or small group uses power or control to harm others.

Interpersonal violence (IPV) can include:

- Physical harm
- Sexual harm
- Emotional or psychological harm
- Neglecting or keeping someone from getting what they need
- Financial exploitation

## Why is this Important?

People with IDD and traumatic brain injury (TBI) are more likely to experience abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

They often face extra challenges getting help, being believed, or getting justice.

## Interpersonal Violence and IDD/TBI



# Interpersonal Violence Resource Hub

The [Interpersonal Violence Resource Hub](#) was recently added to the Inclusion Connects webpage. This site offers easy-to-understand, trauma-informed information and tools for people with IDD and TBI. Whether you're looking for help, education, or ways to prevent violence, we are here for you.

## The Resource Hub includes:



Hotlines and Websites to get Help Now



Statistics on IDD or TBI and IPV



Information on how IPV may Affect People with IDD or TBI

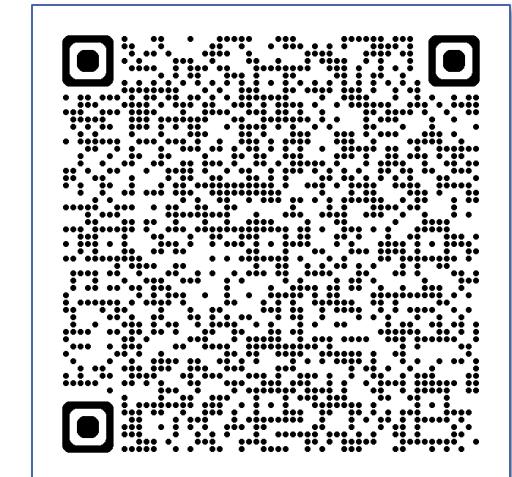


Links to IPV Resources Specific for People with IDD or TBI

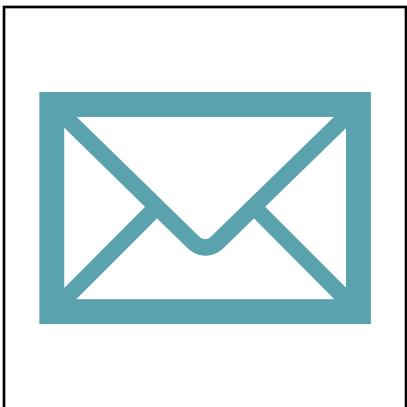


NCDHHS Contact Information

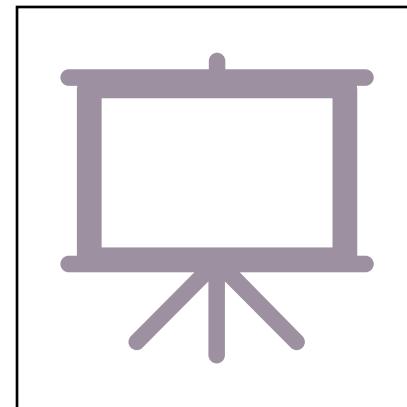
Visit the site by scanning the QR code.



# Q&A



Questions and feedback are welcome at [DMHIDDCONTACT@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:DMHIDDCONTACT@dhhs.nc.gov)



The recording and presentation slides for this webinar will be posted to the [Inclusion Connects](#) webpage.



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Mental Health,  
Developmental Disabilities and  
Substance Use Services

# Stay Connected with DMHDDSUS



**Join our Side by Side  
Webinars**



**Join our  
Mailing List**