

What about funding?

Level funding means cuts for individuals due to increases in the cost of care
Since 2006 people already in the system have experienced cuts totaling 10%
All people served lost some supports – hundreds suffered direct service cuts
Each year a majority of new caseload funds goes to those already served with new needs, not new people
Investing in supports decreases the social and economic costs of later incarceration & emergency services

How does the system work for individuals and families?

People identified information as a priority need in all recent Vermont studies and surveys
Vermonters say they don't know where to start, or how to navigate complicated systems
People have to rely on each other to know where and how to ask for help
“Often families need to know what to ask for, rather than being upfront what they qualify for.” (VTDDC 2006 Survey)

What else do we need to know?

As required by Vermont's Developmental Disabilities Act, the System of Care Plan needs to include a comprehensive needs assessment with demographic information, & characteristics of both unserved and underserved individuals and populations
For the past two years the Department of Disabilities, Aging & Independent Living has not published its Developmental Services Annual Report

What can we do?

Listen to what people with developmental disabilities & families say they need
Provide specialized information, referral & assistance to help people navigate
Offer a transparent application process
Assess needs and set priorities based on complete information
Increase and allocate funding so that people can be as independent and self-sustaining as possible

For more information contact

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