



**Division of Developmental  
Disabilities**

## **Nebraska's Waiting List for DD Services**

**A New Approach**

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# DD Waiting List History

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- Previously known as a Registry of Unmet Needs *(11/14/08: 3,465 people on the list)*
  - People selected a “Date of Need” for placement on the list.
  - People could move their “Date of Need.”
  - People could refuse Waiver offers and remain on the list.
  - 868 eligible people on the Registry identified that they wanted services in future years.
- In 2017, changed to a “true” Waiting List *(7/1/20: 2,959 people on the list)*
  - Medicaid eligibility is required (except minors) to be waiting for a Waiver slot
  - Refusal of Waiver slot, removed from waiting list and required new application
- 2017 – Present *(4/1/24: 2,712 people on the list)*
  - Return to “Registry.”
  - Many people on the list are getting some type of State-funded service.

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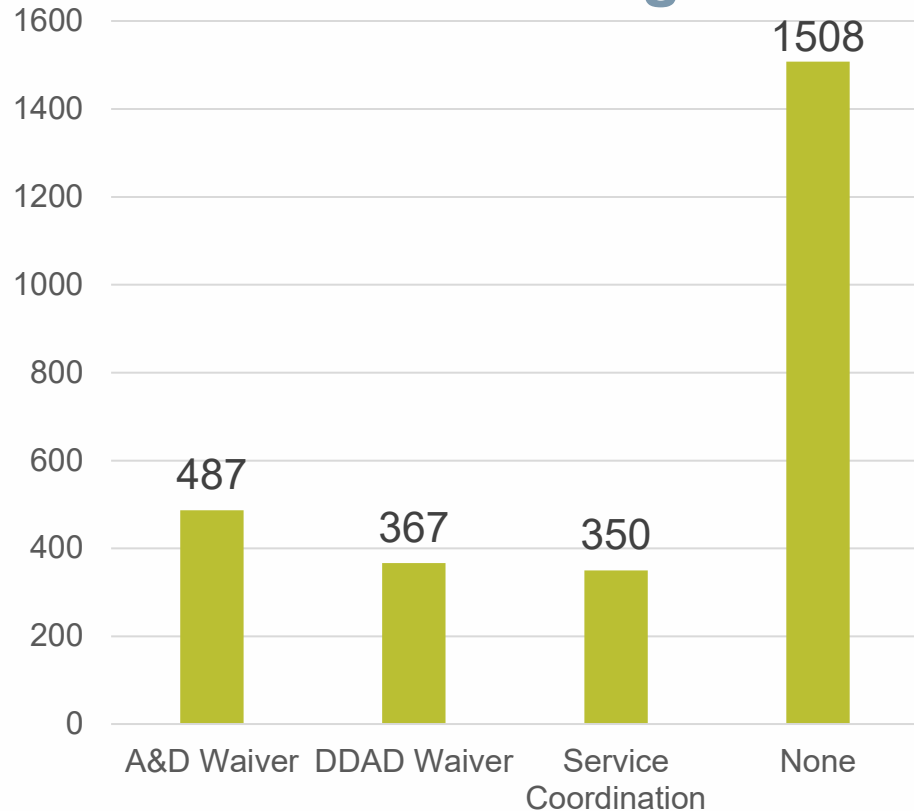
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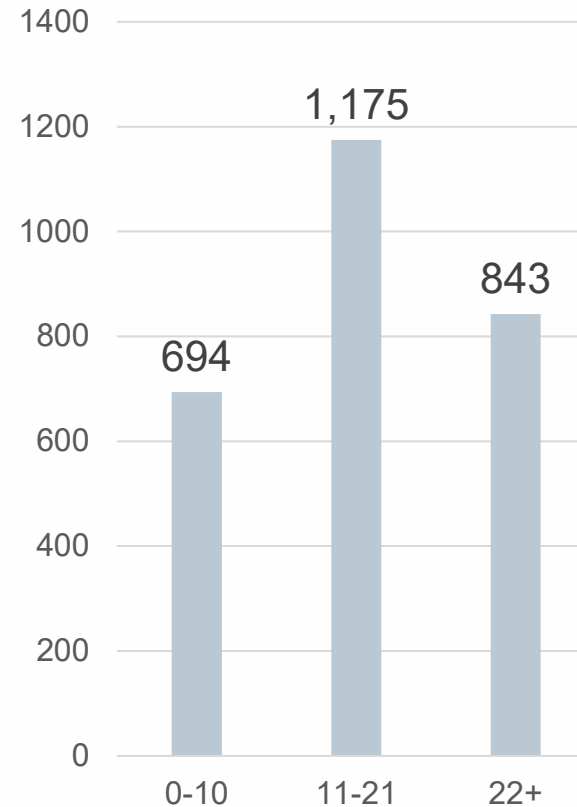
# Waiting List Data as of April 1, 2024

## 2,712

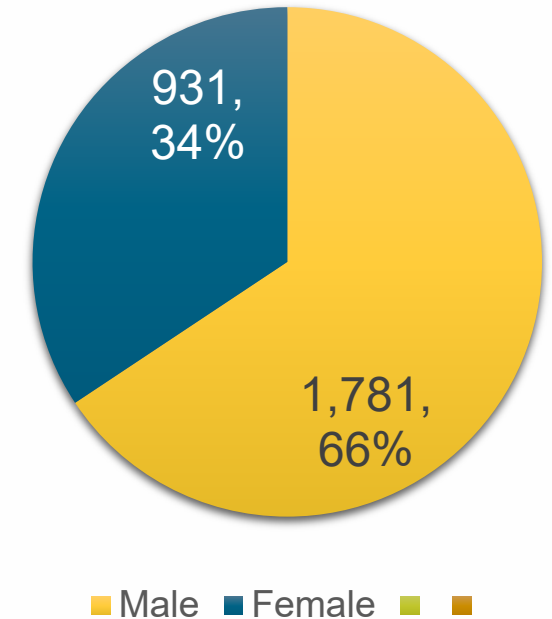
### Services Received While Waiting



### Age



### Gender



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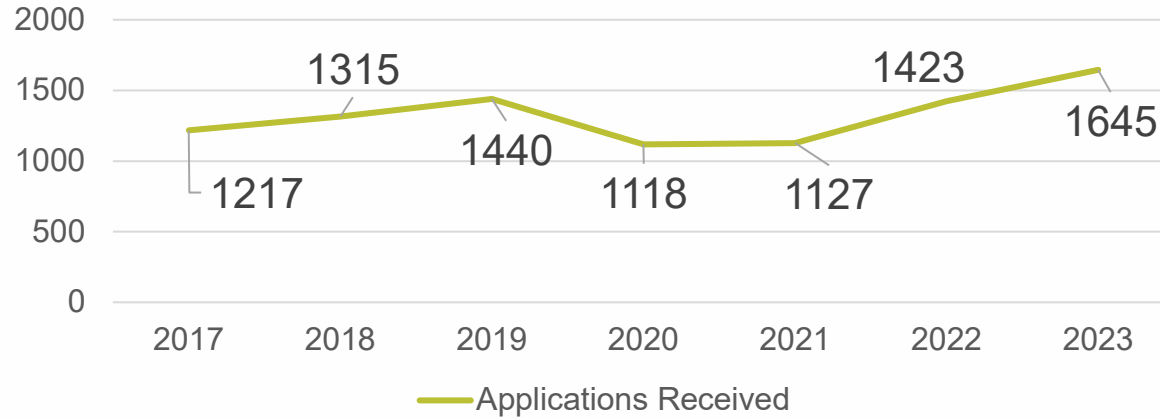
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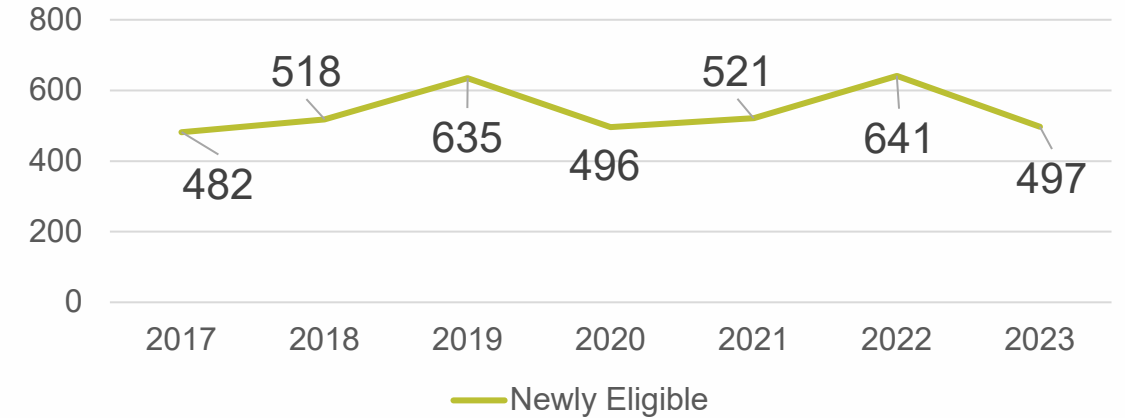
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# DD Application History

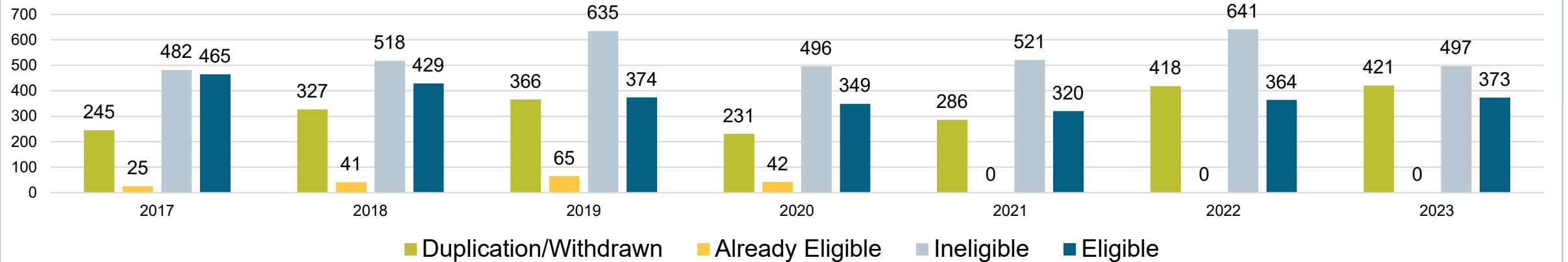
## Applications Received



## Newly Eligible



## Application Disposition



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*\*2023 data in progress; not final numbers.*

# Current Approach – DD Eligibility

- Encourage applications early.
- Eligible persons go on the Registry/Wait List.
- Services are not provided unless eligible for another program.
- Re-Verification of DD eligibility is completed at ages 9 and 18 years.
- Contact DD Division if needs change or rise to the level of Priority 1.
- DD Adult Day Waiver offered at age 21 years.
- Comprehensive DD Waiver offered by date of application (6-to-8-year wait).



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# A New Approach!

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# Immediate Support Options – Something for Everyone

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- Upon meeting DD eligibility, available supports become *immediately* accessible.
- Possible supports for eligible people/families:
  - Medicaid;
  - Respite (Lifespan);
  - Medically Handicapped Childrens Program (MHCP);
  - Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS);
  - Service Coordination (SC); or
  - Waivers (AD, CDD, DDAD, FSW, or TBI).
- **There is no need to be placed on a list!**

# Future State – Comparison

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## CURRENT

- Encourage applications early.
- Eligible persons go on the Registry/Wait List.
- Service are not provided unless eligible for another program.
- Re-Verification of DD eligibility at ages 9 and 18 years.
- Contact DD Division if needs change or rise to the level of Priority 1.
- DD Adult Day Waiver offered at age 21 years.
- Comprehensive DD Waiver offered by date of application (6-to-8-year wait).

## FUTURE

- Encourage applications early.
- *Eligible persons receive immediately available supports, such as: Medicaid, Respite, MHCP, SC, or Waivers.*
- Re-Verification of DD eligibility at ages 9 and 18 years.
- Contact DD Division if needs change or rise to the level of a Priority 1.
- DD Adult Day Waiver offered at age 21 years.
- *Comprehensive DD Waiver offered by needs assessment.*

# Statewide Governor Initiative

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## Become a Technology and Employment-First State

- August 2024 – March 2025/2026
  - Establish a baseline for technology use, including Assistive Technology and Remote Supports.
  - Establish a baseline for Competitive Integrated Employment.
  - Set Goals for each.
  - Develop provider sites willing to pilot new technology approaches.
- In March 2025/2026 (DD Awareness Month), propose Governor to sign a proclamation and declare Nebraska a Technology and Employment-First State.

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# Building the State Workforce

## Service Coordinators

- Invest in training the full array of service and support options.
- Additional Service Coordinators will be added for increased caseloads (generally 1:25).

## Policy/Waiver Specialists

- Become immersed in national best practices regarding employment, technology, complex-care, paid family caregivers, etc.

## Eligibility & Enrollment

- Develop processes to assist families after eligibility determination.

## Quality & Data

- Build data systems and infrastructures to support the new system.

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# Building the Provider Workforce

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- Provider Directory
  - Agency Provider Directory update.
  - Create Independent Provider Directory.
- Fiscal Agent – Full Self-Direction (Employer & Budget Authority)
- Paid Family Caregivers
  - Legally Responsible Individuals (LRI).
- Credentials for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)
  - Work begun with Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI).



# Provider Rates

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- Another 2% increase on 7/1/24.
  - This equates to a **36.6%** increase since 2020. (4%, 2.6%, 2%, 26%, 2%)
- In-depth audit/review of agency provider cost reports:
  - Commonalities;
  - Opportunities; and
  - Administrative Costs
    - Standardization?
    - Caps?
- Direct care wages used in rate build-ups. (min. wage adjustments, potential federal 80/20 rules)
- [Legislative Resolution](#) – LR 392 Senator Hansen
  - Child Welfare, DD, Nursing Facilities, Assisted Living, Behavioral Health, and Hospitals.

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# Statutory & Regulatory Opportunities

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- Identify statutes & regulations that **need to be** changed.
- Identify statutes & regulations that **should be** changed.
- Consider other future opportunities, such as:
  - Change federal poverty levels
  - Income limits (support employment)
  - Resource limits
  - Align Nebraska I/DD definition with Federal definition

# The Math

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$$(\text{Number of participants}) \times (\$ \text{ spent on services}) = \$\$$$

- OLD: 2,700 x Average Comprehensive DD Waiver Cost (\$90,000) = \$\$\$\$\$
- NEW:
  - # x Medicaid = \$
  - # x (Medicaid + Lifespan Respite) = \$
  - # x (Medicaid + Medically Handicapped Childrens Program) = \$
  - # x (Medicaid + Service Coordination + Aged and Disabled Waiver) = \$
  - # x (Medicaid + Service Coordination + Family Support Waiver) = \$
  - # x (Medicaid + Service Coordination + DD Adult Day Waiver) = \$
  - # x (Medicaid + Service Coordination + Comprehensive DD Waiver) = \$

# Empowering Your Growth

DHHS Division of Developmental Disabilities

## Children 0-18

### Services

Early Childhood and School-Age Services  
Medicaid Only (Katie Beckett)  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination and Waiver Services

### Waivers

Aged & Disabled  
Family Support

## Transition 12-20

### Services

School Transition Services  
Employment-Related Services  
Medicaid Only  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination and Waiver Services

### Waivers

Aged & Disabled  
Family Support

## Adults 21-60

### Services

Medicaid Only  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination and Waiver Services

### Waivers

Aged & Disabled  
Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities  
Developmental Disabilities Adult Day  
Traumatic Brain Injury

## Adults 61+

### Services

Medicaid only  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination  
Medicaid plus Service Coordination and Waiver Services

### Waivers

Aged & Disabled  
Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities  
Developmental Disabilities Adult Day  
Traumatic Brain Injury

Comprehensive Developmental Disabilities Waiver is available at any age for those that meet Priority 1 Criteria

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# Defining Success

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1. The 2,700 people *currently on the Registry* (and any added), can begin immediate services or remain on existing services such as:
  - No supports needed at this time;
  - Lifespan Respite;
  - Medically Handicapped Childrens Program (MHCP);
  - Disabled Persons and Family Support (DPFS);
  - Medicaid *only*; or
  - Medicaid *and* the appropriate HCBS Waiver.
- AND** 2. All newly eligible people can *immediately* begin an appropriate support option.

# Measuring Success

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## Phase 1

- All children from birth to 21 years of age will remain on or be offered an available support option(s) – dispositions recorded via dashboard

## Phase 2

- All adults over 21 years, be contacted to discuss current services or offered an available support option(s). – dispositions recoded via dashboard

## Both Phases & Ongoing

- For any person entering a Waiver, track the date of their Individual Service Plan (ISP) completion, to date of first delivered service.  
(Monitoring for “hidden waiting list”)

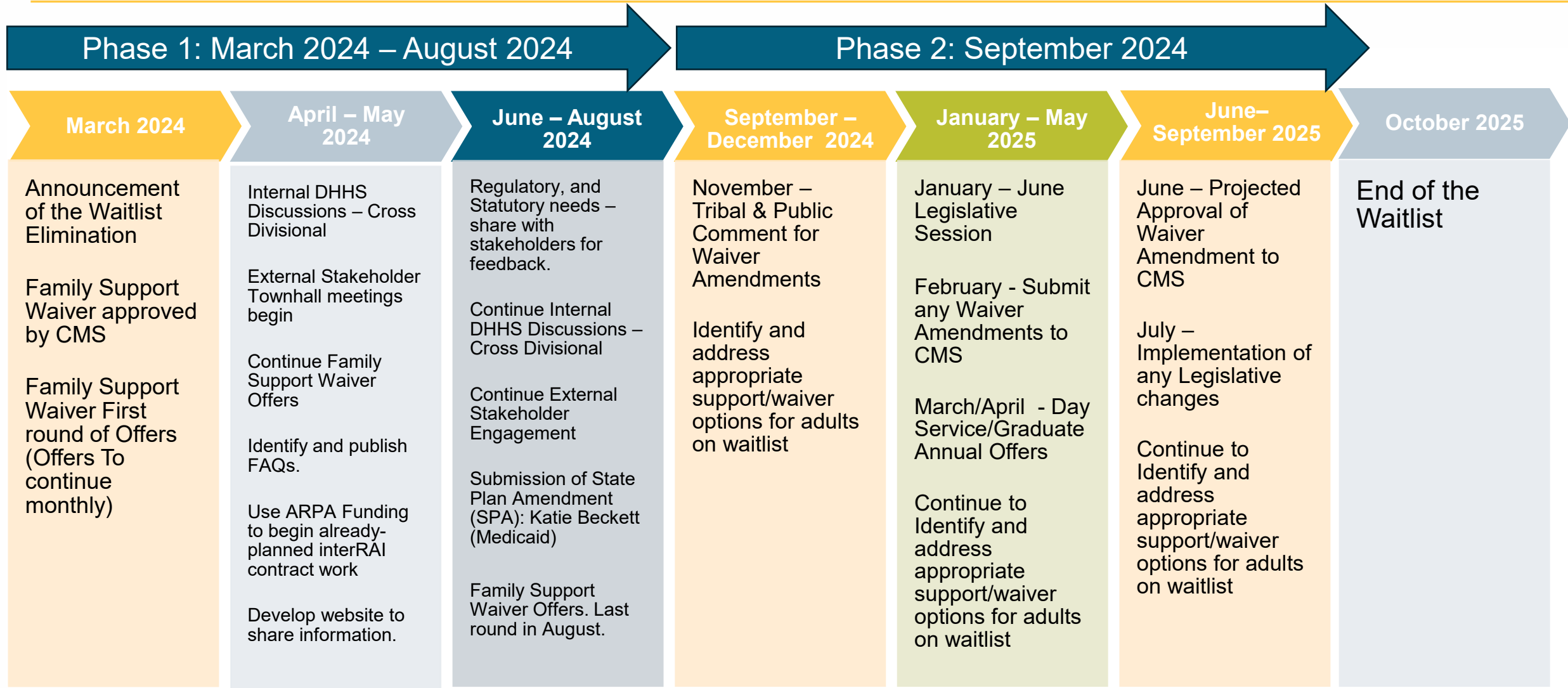
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# Waitlist Elimination Projected Timeline



# Julius

At the age of 2, it was determined that Julius has Developmental Disabilities and qualifies for services. At this time, the only support the family needs is PT/OT provided through Medicaid. Julius received an offer for Medicaid to cover the cost of these services.

Once Julius turned 6, his and his families' support needs increase. Julius is experiencing significant developmental delays. Julius was offered the Family Support Waiver to access Child Day Habilitation during the summer (10 weeks) for Julius and secured 2 hours of Respite with an Independent Provider each week. Julius's family also used Caregiver Training to attend a training at UNMC about how to better support Julius.

Julius graduates from high school at 21 years old with part-time employment. He chooses to move from the FSW to the DD Adult Day Waiver. This allows Julius to be able continue with job coaching and having support during the day. These services were formerly covered through the school.

At 25, Julius decides he would like to move into an apartment with his friends. Julius can access independent living services providing support with daily living, health maintenance, and social/leisure skills through the DD Adult Day Waiver.

Age	Service
2	Medicaid only
6	Family Support waiver – Day Supports, Respite, & Family Caregiver Training
21	Adult Day waiver – Supported Employment, Community Integration
25	Adult Day waiver (continue) – Add independent living services

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# Adam



Adam is 40 and has lived his whole life at home with mom and dad. Adam has never received Medicaid services nor applied for DD services. Adam lives in a small town and has many natural supports in his community, including friends from high school and church. Adams has independently maintained a part-time job at the local farmers market for a few years.

His parents are aging and no longer able to support Adam in their home due to their own health needs. He wants his own apartment. Adam is not able to live independently without supports. Adam needs assistance with budgeting, grocery shopping, meal prep and laundry.

Age	Service
40	Adult Day Waiver – Independent Living

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# Hazel

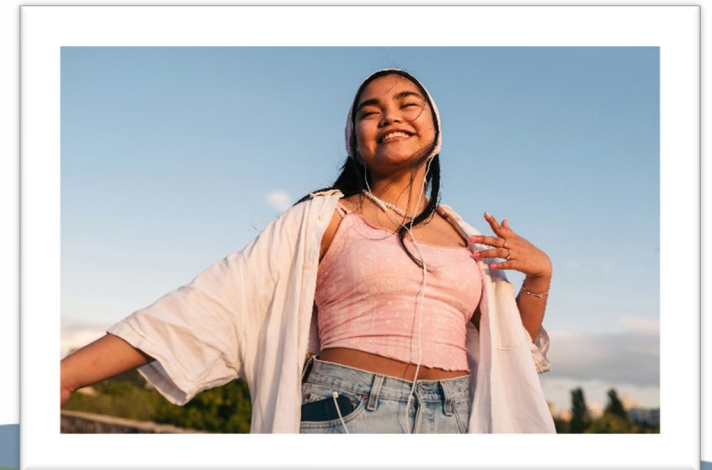
Hazel began receiving Medicaid benefits when she was 3 years old.

At 10 years old, Hazel's sole caretaker (a single mom) needs to have surgery and is need of additional supports. Hazel is offered the Family Support Waiver, so her mom can access homemaker services while she recovers.

At 17 years old, Hazel is displaying increasingly aggressive behaviors, the team adds In Home Family Support. At 29 years old, Hazel's aggression is harming herself and her mother . It is determined that clinical consultative assessment and residential habilitation would be appropriate to help support Hazel. After an assessment, she qualifies for the Comprehensive DD Waiver with priority 1 funding.

Age	Service
3	Medicaid Only
10	Family Support Waiver – Homemaker Service
17	Family Support Waiver – In Home Family Support
29	Comprehensive Waiver- Residential Habilitation

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# Wilma



Wilma is 76 years old. She has been living in her own apartment since the age of 25 on the Comprehensive DD Waiver with independent living. Wilma has been increasing her hours of support as activities of daily living are more difficult. Many of her friends have moved away from the area. Wilma wants to move to an Assisted Living facility as she no longer wishes to maintain a home on her own and wants more socialization.

She is assessed and meets the nursing facility level of care. Wilma decides to switch to the Aged and Disabled Wavier.

Age	Service
25	Comprehensive Waiver – Independent Living
76	Aged & Disabled Waiver – Assisted Living

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