



Funding Crisis in Disability Services

An unprecedented crisis is occurring for people with intellectual disabilities and their families, many of whom are experiencing significant unmet need.

Unmet need:

1. **Long waiting lists for children's disability supports** means early intervention milestones are being irrevocably missed.
2. **Significant shortages of residential support** and no pathway to access residential funding **except via emergency** means adults with ID are not living lives of their choosing in line with UNCRPD, which Ireland has ratified.
3. **Many parents are providing support into their 70's, 80's and beyond** with no visibility or security of planning into the future for their loved one. (E.g. in a sample of just 18 of our organisations, **183** people are living with a carer over the age of **80** years of age; **473** with a carer aged between **70-79**).
4. Due to high demand, there is **significant unmet need for respite** - leaving carers in distressing, unsustainable situations and leading to emergency admissions to full time residential care, including for some children.
5. **Minimal capital and multi-disciplinary support funding** has been provided for **day services** since 2008, in spite of the needs of school leavers and those with changing needs.
6. Insufficient, inequitable **multi-disciplinary support**.
7. Services are relying on an **ageing transport fleet** - lack of investment means over 550 vehicles used to support people in ID services are over 10 years old and require replacement.

Services in deficit: Due to sustained cuts and increased costs of regulation and insurance, many ID service providers are now operating in deficit positions, with the **future continuation of their services at significant risk**.

Pay Restoration: Section 39 agencies have not had pay restoration, leading to **severe difficulties in recruitment & retention**.

WHAT IS NEEDED IN BUDGET 2020

- **€211 million investment in disability services for each year 2020-2024 ***
- 300 additional posts in children's services
- Significant additional funding for planned residential and respite supports to meet pent up and new demand as people with ID and carers age. Residential support for additional 500-800 people required immediately.
- Funding of compliance and regulatory costs (e.g. HIQA, Fire Safety)
- Investment in safe transport
- Establishment of Transport Support Scheme.

*In line with Transforming Lives Working Group 1 Report

Urgent investment to resolve unsustainable deficit situation.

Full pay restoration required for Section 39 agencies to ensure retention of vital services & ongoing recruitment.

Urgent action in Budget 2020 is required to meet the needs of people with intellectual disabilities and their families to address the crisis in disability services.