



SB 3859 Fact Sheet
Sponsor: Senator Laura Fine (D, 9th)
Position: SUPPORT

SB 3859S1 directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to conduct an independent rate study of the Home-Based Support Services Program which includes an examination of the changes in purchasing power over time.

Background

- Participation in the [Home-Based Services \(HBS\) Waiver](#) enables the purchase of services necessary to support an individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to live successfully in their own home or with their family.
- The Home-Based Services Waiver:
 - is “self-directed” meaning individuals, guardians and families arrange and manage their own services and supports;
 - provides a monthly stipendⁱ to be used to purchase services and supports; and
 - enables family members to have the flexibility to work.
- 50% of adults with IDD in Illinois who are receiving waiver-funded IDD services are served through the Home Based Services waiver.ⁱⁱ

The Issue

- Individuals using HBS are responsible for recruiting, hiring, and managing their own Personal Support Workers (PSW), including setting the wage rate.
- A 2020 studyⁱⁱⁱ resulted in recommendations which included much-needed rate increases for Direct Support Professionals (DSP), a role very similar to that of a PSW.
 - The study, however, did not include an exploration of the wages of PSWs providing supports to the 11,397^{iv} HBS Program participants.
- Because the HBS monthly allocation had not, until January 2022^v, increased significantly since 2019, HBS participants’ ability to purchase needed services has been diminished.
 - As a result of decreased buying power, families are competing with developmental disability provider agencies that have the ability to increase their DSP pay rate.
 - This is compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in critical temporary rate increases to provider organizations which did not apply to HBS.

An independent rate study of the HBS Program is necessary to examine the extent of the diminished purchasing power of HBS participants to access needed supports and live independently in the community.

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ⁱ 200% SSI for children in school and 300% SSI for adults per [Section 2-6 of the Developmental Disability and Mental Disability Services Act, 405 ILCS 80/2-6](#).

ⁱⁱ Stark, A. (2022, January). Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, QIDP Conference presentation.

ⁱⁱⁱ Guidehouse, Inc. (2020). Developmental Disability Services Rate Study: Residential Services and Related Supports. Available: <https://3m4psa58y9z2v1hgruw7ram5-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Final-Guidehouse-Rates-Report-12.08.2020.pdf>

^{iv} Stark, A. (2022, January). Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, QIDP Conference presentation.

^v <https://www.ssa.gov/cola/>