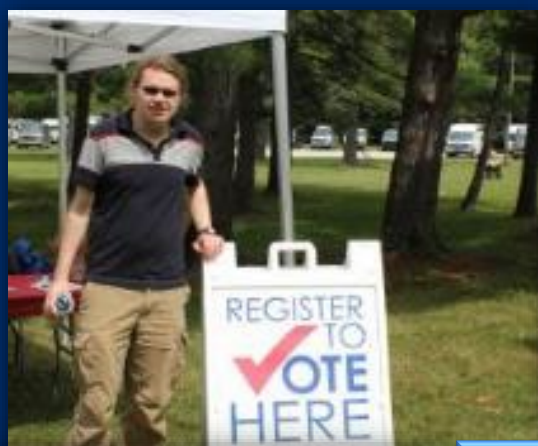




DDRS Advisory Council

Wednesday, January 21, 2026



ALL people are empowered to live, love, work, learn, play and pursue their dreams.





DDARS

Here for every life at every age.



BCDS

Bureau of Child
Development
Services



BRS

Bureau of
Rehabilitation
Services



BDS

Bureau of
Disabilities
Services



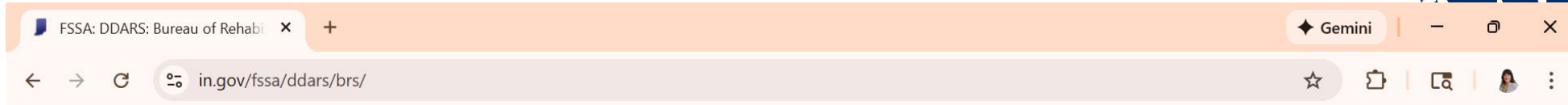
BBA

Bureau of
Better Aging



Topic	Time	Discussion Leader
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome/Introductions Video 	10 Mins	Jessica Harlan-York, Lexi Westerfield
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Update	45 Mins	Theresa Koleszar
Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments	40 Mins	Holly Wimsatt
Break	10 Mins	
Waiver Reset Engagement Timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 Phase 2 	60 Mins	Holly Wimsatt and Kelly Mitchell
Parking Lot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Meeting: March 18, 2026, IGC, Conference Room C 	15 Mins	Jessica Harlan-York

Video



Family and Social Services Administration

[FSSA Home](#) > [DDARS Home](#)

Our Bureaus

- Bureau of Child Development Services (BCDS)
- Bureau of Disabilities Services (BDS)
- Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)**
- Bureau of Better Aging (BBA)

About DDARS

Our Initiatives

Resources

[Learn More](#)

About the Bureau

As a division of DDARS, BRS provides vocational training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We help people access the resources they need to live independently. Additionally, the bureau supports Hoosiers through Vocational Rehabilitation services, offers pre-employment transition services to students, and serves individuals through a variety of BRS support programs annually.

BRS Overview
FSSA Indiana

Watch on YouTube

Programs and Resources



Bureau of Rehabilitation Services Update

Theresa Koleszar

Director

BRS

Commission on Rehabilitation Services 2025 Annual Report - Highlights



Matthew

- Teachers Assistant at local Preschool
- Reads books to children using a communication device, lines up students for recesses and supervises outdoor play
- “Matt is always so helpful with the kids. I love having him in the classroom...the children adore Mr. Matt, often gathering around him during story time, with two or three kids nestled on his lap.”

Annual Report Highlights – Supported Employment Plus (SE+)



Ted

- Laundry services at local senior living facility
- Previously worked in sheltered workshop for almost 30 years
- Has picked up an additional shift and received a raise
- Ted reports enjoying his work and the social activities he shares with new friends and co-workers

Annual Report Highlights



Josh

- Indiana Pacers Team Store
- Manager shared, “Josh has been a valuable member of the Pacers and Fever Team Store over the past year...he did a marvelous job packing web orders and helping us through the Pacers NBA Finals, the WNBA All-Star game, and the Fever Stranger Things collection release...we are lucky to have him our team!”



Annual Report Data Highlights

- 2,091 VR participants exited with employment in SFY25 (43% increase from SFY24)
- Average hourly wage \$17.96 (17.5% increase from SFY24)
- Average weekly work hours 27 (11% increase from SFY24)
- 81% of the population served in VR were individuals with the most significant disabilities
- 12% increase in number of individuals served over the prior year

[2025 Commission on Rehabilitation Services Annual Report link](#)



2026 Focus

- Sustain services to all VR eligible individuals, while increasing employment outcomes
 - Intentional service delivery determinations
 - ✓ Is the service a vocational rehabilitation service?
 - ✓ Is the vocational rehabilitation service required for the specific vocational outcome?
 - Opportunities to improve or streamline service structures
 - Opportunities for sequencing/braiding VR services with other resources



Additional Updates

- [VR Rules](#)
- New Benefits Counseling and Work Incentive Service Model coming July 2026
- Pre-employment transition services
 - Clarifying objective of pre-ets → activities should lead to identifying vocational goal
 - Career Profile
 - System consolidation and streamlining
- VR Employment Advisory Group
 - Improving communication and collaboration between providers and VR in delivering employment services and supporting more timely job placement



VR State Plan

- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act State Plan updates due Spring, 2026
 - Indiana workforce programs, including VR
 - Public comment period to occur in early 2026



Quarterly BRS Data

1. A status report of the division's effort to fill VR Counselor vacancies.

- As of December 2025: 205 VR Counselor positions
 - 5 vacant positions (2% of VRC positions)
 - 12 staff in Trainee VRC status (6% of VRC positions)

2. A status report of the order of selection.

- All service priority categories are open and 0 cases are on the order of selection wait list.
- Continued monitoring and evaluation of capacity to serve all eligible individuals with available resources.



Quarterly BRS Data cont.

3. The number of individuals who submitted applications for VR services.

- 2,633 VR applicants SFY26 to date (July-December 2025)
- 6,260 VR applicants SFY25 (32% increase from SFY22)
 - 5,798 VR applicants SFY24; 5,208 VR applicants SFY23; 4,736 VR applicants SFY22

4. The number of individuals currently on a wait list to obtain VR services = 0

5. The number of individuals who are currently receiving VR services

- Current open VR cases as of December 31, 2025: 11,705
- Additional VR cases closed since July 2025: 3,596
- Total VR cases SFY26 to date: 15,301



Questions??



Bureau of Disabilities Services





Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments

- Case Management b4 implementation
- Update to STBR and LTBR Provisions
- Rate modification for live-in caregivers of ATTC, PAC, and RHS
- Mark-Up limit applied to SMES and clarification on documentation
- RHS Daily Rate mandate for eligible individuals
- Alignment of BSS on TBI with FS and CIH



Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments

- Home Mod bid documentation, clarification, and lifetime cap
- Update to provider types
- Update on documentation requirements
- Remote supports service definition revision
- Update on quality performance measures
- Allowable service provision by relatives (non-LRIs)



Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments

- Alignment of incident reporting requirements
- Update actuarial information
- DDARS name change
- Update references to PCISP
- Benefits counseling service limit
- Clarification of HRC
- Revision of wait list management on FS and CIH



Summer 2026 Waiver Amendments

- Revision to service definitions clarifying therapeutic services and transportation (RECT, MUTH)
- Service definition revisions (Day Hab, Wellness)
- Addition of reserve capacity on CIH for MFP
- Removal of certain reserve capacity categories
 - Transition from 100% state funds
 - Choosing to leave ICF/IID
- Clarification of FS cap and maintenance of home mod



Waiver Reset Overview

January 2026



Goals of Waiver Reset

- **Improve Support Coordination**
 - Across all Funding Streams
 - Formal and Informal Services\Supports
- **Implement Sustainable Service Delivery System**
 - Support Level Framework
 - Support Budget Framework
 - Manage Slot Capacity
- **Enhance Provider Capacity with Quality Outcomes**
- **Focus on System Simplification**
 - Consolidation of Services – Improved flexibility for individuals
 - Access/Administration



Waiver Reset Engagement Timeline

- **Phase 1** stakeholder engagement – September through December 2025
 - Facilitated 36 small and large group conversations
 - Conducted 13 one-on-one interviews
 - Connected with approximately 2,275 individuals
- **Phase 2** – Supports Budget Community Advisory – February 2026 through January 2027
 - INARF, Arc, Center for Independent Living, people with lived experience, family members, some DDARS Advisory members, etc.
 - Invitations will be sent in late January 2026



Phase 1 Feedback Summary

- New waiver structure that addresses mid-level support needs
- Individual budgets based on individual assessed needs rather than diagnosis
- Budget structure to address changing needs of individual
- Continued flexibility to choose service mix to address needs
- Reimagine services
- Continued ability to self direct services
- Enhance telehealth options
- Meaningfully inform and engage community members as decisions are made



What is a Support Budget?

Established budget amount for each person in a level/age group/living setting

Derived by calculating cost of “model service mix”

Service mix development dependent on other policy decisions (e.g., waiver restructure, service arrays)



Why Pursue Supports Budgets?

Weak relationship between cost and need on some waivers

Can accommodate changes (e.g., rates, new services, policies)

Promote sustainability and reduces “service only” orientation

Not wholly reliant on historical costs

Improved ability to predict spending

Limited resources, increasing demands

Promotes transparency and understandability

Approximate needs and costs of people on waiting lists

What is a supports budget framework?

A standard, data-driven method implemented to calculate each service participant's budget

Applies to everyone to increase fairness and allow everyone to be supported based on their assessed needs.

Uses a standardized assessment to determine level of supports need (interRAI) and level of care eligibility

Considers factors related to service offerings and cost besides support need, e.g., if a person is in school during the day, where a person lives



Service Recipient Experience

• **New Annual** assessment of support need prior to planning meeting

Participate in an interRAI assessment

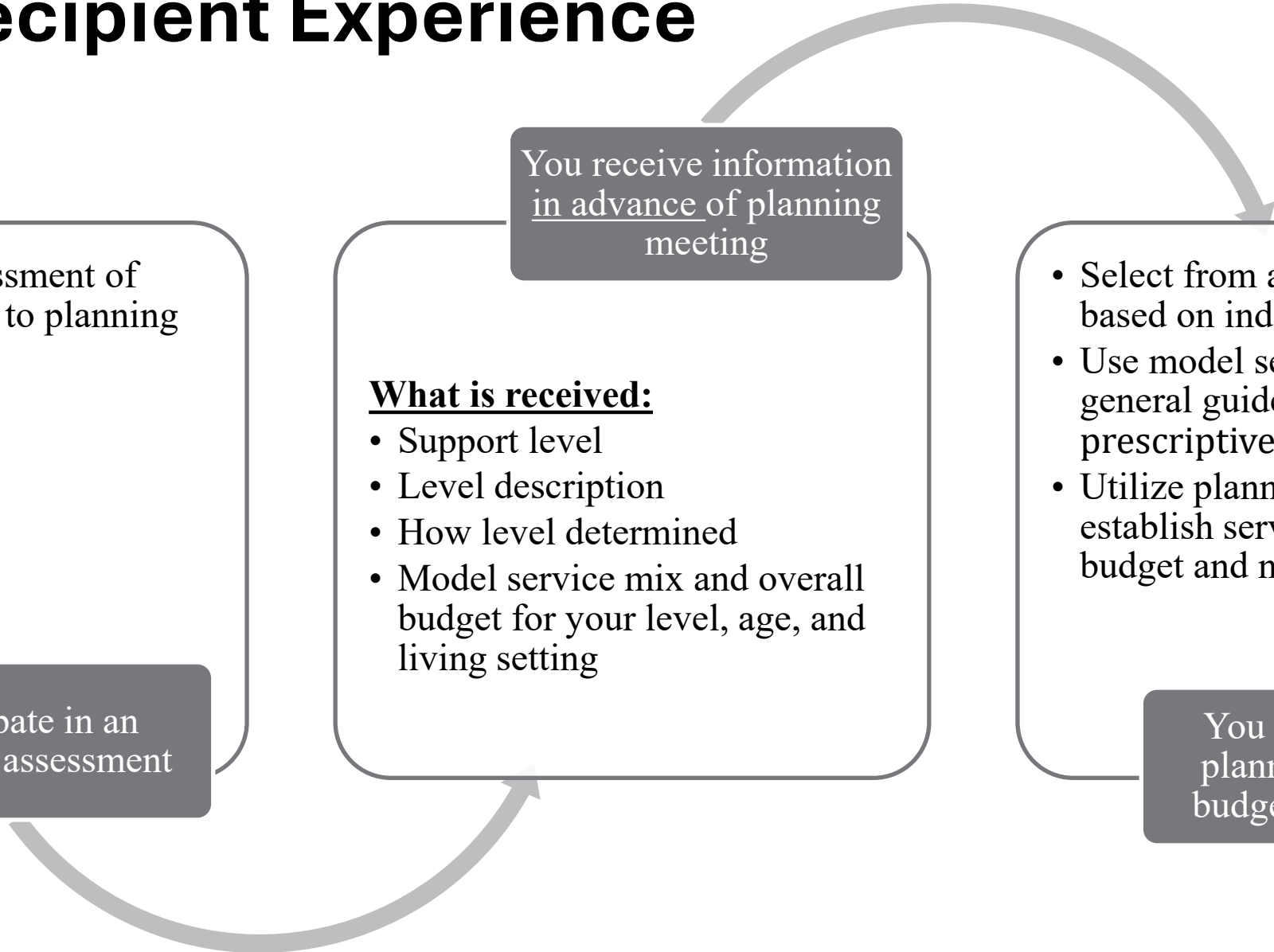
You receive information in advance of planning meeting

What is received:

- Support level
- Level description
- How level determined
- Model service mix and overall budget for your level, age, and living setting

- Select from an array of services based on individual's needs
- Use model service mix as a general guide but not prescriptive
- Utilize planning process to establish services within the budget and needs

You participate in planning knowing budget information





The Goal

CIH

Participant Count:
9,158

0 - 17	16
18 - 26	731
27 - 50	5,105
51+	3,306

FS

Participant Count:
24,152

0 - 17	10,447
18 - 26	7,039
27 - 50	5,857
51+	809

H&W

Participant Count:
13,464

0 - 17	2,076
18 - 26	732
27 - 50	4,367
51+	6,289

TBI

Participant Count:
180

0 - 17	5
18 - 26	22
27 - 50	109
51+	43



Waiver Case Management Delivery – Selective Contracting via Procurement Process

New Waiver Structure to support individuals with disabilities

Coordinated approach with OMPP and DDARS to implement policy, procedure, and services across State Plan and Waiver

Development & Implementation Timeline

- **January – August 2026:**
 - Gather data from interRAI Level of Care assessments on current members
 - Begin engagement with Supports Budget Advisory Committee
 - Internal Collaboration- Coordination of State Plan and Waiver Support
- **August 2026 - Implementation: Data Analysis and Design**
 - Engagement with Supports Budget Advisory Committee
 - Inform and Design Service Mix and Budget Framework
 - Inform and Design Service Planning Guidance
 - Provides level of objectivity for case managers in service planning based on individual need
 - Does not replace person-centered planning
 - Maximize one set of assessments for multiple purposes (LOC, Service Planning, Resource Allocation)



Questions

Thank You

Parking Lot





Next Meeting!

- Wednesday, March 18, 2026, IGC, Conference Room C; BCDS will be giving update.

DDRS 2026 Advisory Council Calendar



Date	Location	Bureau Update
March 18, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	IGC Conference Room C	BCDS
May 20, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	IGC Conference Room C	BDS
July 15, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	IGC Conference Room B	BRS
September 16, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	IGC Conference Room B	BCDS
November 18, 2026 9:30am-12:30pm EST	Virtual Only	BDS

