INDIANA DISABILITY ALLIANCE

A Guide to Meeting with Your Legislator

Rally to Protect Community Living – November 17, 2026

Why We're Rallying — And What We're Asking

- Home and community-based services (HCBS) help people with disabilities live, work, learn, and participate in their communities with dignity, choice, and support.
- Ask legislators to **understand what HCBS make possible**, listen to people and families who rely on these services, recognize the harm when supports are reduced or unavailable, and **invest in funding to address Indiana's waiting lists**.
- Recognize that people with disabilities are valued members of our communities and economy. With the right supports, people can pursue employment, contribute their talents, build relationships, and participate fully in community life.

19,000
Hoosiers on the HCBS Waitlist

900,000
Hoosiers with a Disability

What are HCBS Waivers?

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers are Medicaid programs that fund supports for eligible Hoosiers in their homes and communities rather than institutional settings. Indiana has different waivers serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and age-related needs.

Why Do HCBS Waivers Matter?

HCBS waivers help Hoosiers live more independently, remain close to family and friends, work, volunteer, and contribute to their communities. They support individual choice and can reduce the need for more restrictive, institutional care. These services also help family caregivers stay in the workforce.

Make Your Meeting Personal: Questions to Help Tell Your Story

Consider Sharing:

- What does a typical day look like for you or your family? Which services make the biggest difference?
- How have services helped with independence, safety, communication, work, school, or community participation?
- What would happen if services were reduced, delayed, or unavailable?
- How does reliable support affect family members and caregivers?

Make a Clear Request:

- Support funding to reduce the HCBS waitlist of 19,000 Hoosiers

Meeting with Legislators: The Do's and Don'ts

DO

- **DO** introduce yourself and share where you live in the district.
- **DO** speak from your own experience; a brief, honest story is powerful.
- **DO** make a clear request and explain why it matters.
- **DO** bring this page, notes, or a photo (if appropriate).
- **DO** listen, be respectful, and thank them for their time, and offer to send more information.

DON'T

- **DON'T** feel you must be a policy expert or know every answer.
- **DON'T** assume the legislator understands HCBS—explain it in everyday language.
- **DON'T** interrupt, argue, or lose your temper with a legislator.
- **DON'T** make up something if you don't know the answer or let it stall you; offer to follow up.
- **DON'T** dominate the conversation; make room for others.
- **DON'T** leave without asking how to stay in touch or who to contact.

YOUR STORY MATTERS.

You do not need to have all the answers. Help your legislator understand what these services mean in real life—and ask them to stand with Hoosiers with disabilities.

Sources: 2024 American Community Survey / FSSA HCBS Waiting List Dashboard / Rally Webpage