

Input for FY08-09 HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)
Submitted by The Arc of Texas, Item #1

Individual/Organization: **The Arc of Texas**
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Description of Initiative/Issue:

Over 100,000 Texans with disabilities continue to wait for long term care Medicaid Waiver Program services and supports. HHSC must make a commitment to seek a long term solution to address this great need.

Is this Issue/Initiative: New Expansion Restoration

Proposed Solution(s):

HHSC must propose and actively promote a “10-Year Plan to Eliminate the Waiting Lists,” while maintaining the “first-come, first-served” provision, so that at the end of those ten years no individual waits more than 24 months to receive Medicaid Waiver Program supports and services.

NOTE: DADS and HHSC formally proposed a “10-Year Plan to Eliminate the Waiting Lists” before the 79th Texas Legislature.

Input for FY08-09 HHSC Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)
Submitted by The Arc of Texas, Item #2

Individual/Organization: The Arc of Texas
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Description of Initiative/Issue:

The adoption of a long-term solution to end the waiting lists will address only the needs of Texans who have waited for many years to receive Medicaid Waiver program supports and services. Therefore, HHSC must build, develop and strengthen an infrastructure that can withstand a massive expansion of supports and services to Texans with disabilities.

Is this Issue/Initiative: New Expansion Restoration

Proposed Solution:

HHSC shall:

1. maintain and strengthen its ability (via state agencies such as DADS) to respond to crisis/emergency situations (e.g., loss of home or the death of a caregiver), while maintaining the "first-come, first-served" provision;
2. seek parity in wages of direct care staff between state-operated facilities and community-operated programs (State Schools, Community ICF/MRs, HCS and TxHML); and,
3. seek appropriate reimbursement rates for providers of Medicaid Waiver Program supports and services.