

HHSC Exceptional Item (EI)	Support or Oppose	Description
<p>EI 3: Provide Transition/Diversion to the Community and Reduce Interest Lists</p>		<p>Funding of 1915(c) and 1115 waiver and Promoting Independence waiver capacity slots provides comprehensive services to individuals and reduces the state's reliance on higher acuity, more costly care settings such as intermediate care facilities, nursing facilities, and state supported living centers. In addition, funding of these slots also provides comprehensive services to individuals and reduces the state's reliance on general revenue-funded services to maintain individuals' success in the community.</p> <p>The 85th Legislature did not provide funding to reduce the interest list and the promoting independence slots were significantly reduced for FY 18/19. People with I/DD have resorted to accessing high-cost, institutional services because they could not access cost-effective and desired community based services. This exceptional item will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,476 Promoting Independence Slots • 4,639 waiver slots to reduce the interest list for community based
<p>EI 38: Support Medically Complex Individuals with IDD Living in Community Settings</p>		<p>This item provides funds to meet needs for some individuals enrolled in the Home and Community-based Services (HCS) Medicaid waiver program with unique medical needs. Additionally, this item would also fund the development of a high medical needs (HMN) support service designed to increase one-to-one medical interventions, transfers, feedings, or other activities of daily living, and nursing tasks delegated by a registered nurse (RN).</p>

<p>EI 22: Maintain and Expand IDD Crisis Continuum of Care</p>		<p>This item provides funds to maintain or expand three separate, yet integral, types of services to prevent crises for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD), and support these individuals when crises do occur. This item would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain funding for enhanced community coordination (ECC) and transition support teams (TST). ECC/TST, established in 2015, are designed to help local IDD authorities (LIDDAs) and community providers successfully transition individuals with IDD from institutions to community settings, including pre- and post-move monitoring. • Expand existing crisis intervention and respite services designed to identify individuals who are high-risk and offer supports and services to both prevent and intervene in crises. • Establish new IDD community outpatient mental health services at LIDDAs to provide integrated physical and behavioral health services for people with IDD, preventing crisis situations. <p>With these services, individuals with IDD experiencing mental health crises can remain in the community and avoid costly institutionalization or incarceration.</p>
<p>EI 28: Comply with Federal Requirements for Community Integration for Individuals with Disabilities per HCBS Final Rule</p>		<p>The CMS HCBS Final Rules established in 2014 are a significant improvement to services for people with IDD. Texas will need to invest in HCBS programs to be compliant with the new rules and continue receiving Medicaid funding for these services.</p> <p>The current day habilitation model in the Home and Community-based Services (HCS), Texas Home Living, and Deaf-Blind Multiple</p>

		Disabilities (DBMD) waiver programs does not comply with requirements for community integration. According to the federal regulation, State compliance is required by March 2022. Previous HHSC assessments indicate individuals receiving HCBS need more resources to maximize their participation in the community.
EI 35: Attendant Wage Increase		Personal attendants for many individuals with disabilities are the foundation of support that allows them to lead independent, meaningful lives. Attendants need adequate pay in order to continue their work. We fear that if we cannot maintain an adequate number of personal attendants, then individuals will resort to more expensive institutional settings. Texas is currently experiencing a shortage of personal attendant care. The base wage for a personal attendant is \$8.00 per hour.
EI 6: Maintain ECI Services for Children with Disabilities		<p>This item would provide funding to help Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) keep pace with caseload growth and increases in the cost of providing services, while supporting funding levels needed to retain contractors providing the federally mandated array of ECI services. The ECI program supports families and children, from birth to three years old, with disabilities and developmental delays across the state. ECI supports families to help their children reach their potential through developmental services.</p> <p>In the past eight years, 18 providers have left the program due to inadequate per child funding. As such, the burden of covering larger, and often more rural, areas can shift to the remaining contractors and the costs associated with serving new counties may not be covered by that provider's contract.</p>