



September 28, 2020

TO: Representative Brenda Landwehr and  
Members of the Bob Bethell Joint Committee on Home  
and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight

FR: Matt Fletcher, Executive Director, InterHab

RE: IDD System Update

Chairwoman Landwehr and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share information on behalf of the member organizations of InterHab. Our members serve, or arrange for the provision of services to, Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) in every part of the state.

**COVID-19 Update:**

Kansas IDD service providers continue to struggle in meeting the challenges of COVID-19. Since the last time I provided testimony to this committee, sources of relief funding have begun to be made available to IDD service providers, which have helped providers to cover increased costs associated with the pandemic. However, IDD providers have experienced serious interruptions in reimbursement due to the need to shutter service settings and these relief funds will not fully help providers to recover from the losses they have experienced during the past several months.

IDD service providers also still have difficulty in accessing COVID-related supplies such as PPE and virus testing. A significant number of Kansans with IDD have co-occurring physical health conditions that make them more susceptible to serious complications from COVID-19. Because of this, IDD service providers should be prioritized in acquiring these types of resources. Access to testing appears to be particularly challenging for IDD service providers, particularly in rural areas. As we move further into the pandemic, accessing these types of resources will undoubtedly be even more critical.

**Governor's Allotments and IDD Funding Needs:**

Two decades of chronic underfunding and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have placed incredible strain on the community-based provider network for Kansans with IDD and service capacity is suffering as a result. During the 2020 legislative session, InterHab introduced legislation to provide needed relief to the IDD provider network and ultimately a 5% rate increase for IDD providers was included in the Legislature's budget bill. In late June, Governor Kelly removed those funds in order to address revenue shortfalls in the current fiscal year. As a result, a needed lifeline of funds was taken from the IDD system at the worst possible time.

The \$8.9 million SGF included by the Legislature in its FY 2021 budget would have brought additional federal dollars to the state for a total of \$22 million in needed funds for the IDD provider network. **These funds must be restored.**

This coming legislative session, InterHab's members will advocate for the restoration of funds lost in the Governor's allotment process. We will also continue to push for a strategic approach to restoration of lost IDD service capacity and elimination of the state's IDD waiting list. We ask that you support these initiatives.