



# What Happens After High School to Fairfax Area Young Adults with Disabilities

## FACTS

- Virginia makes a tremendous investment in students with disabilities to ensure their **independence and successful transition** in the community after graduation.
- After graduation, **services and supports are no longer guaranteed** and there are **waiting lists for many community-based services**, including employment support services, day programs for people with significant disabilities, and accessible and integrated housing.
- Without community-based services, many **students are graduating “to the couch”** and are socially isolated at home, unable to be productive, independent community members.
- Over **1,000 individuals with disabilities in the Fairfax area are on waiting lists** for Medicaid waiver services; **almost half as many individuals are also in need of services but are not eligible for Medicaid waivers** due to strict eligibility criteria.
- **Current waiver rates are not sufficient** to ensure that individuals get the level or types of services they need to live in the Northern Virginia area. It is critical that individuals get the services and supports they need to remain near family and friends.

Source: 2013 Fairfax County Human Services Issues Paper  
(<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/legislation/2013/2013-human-services-issue-paper.pdf>)

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The Fairfax Long Term Care Coordinating Council identifies needs and creates solutions for long term care services and supports that enhance the lives of older adults and people with disabilities through the development of community partnerships and leveraging resources.

**Learn more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/LTCCC](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/LTCCC)**

## HOW LEGISLATORS CAN HELP

- **Increase funding for Medicaid waivers** that provide essential home and community-based services for people with disabilities
  - **Provide higher rates and a higher Northern Virginia differential** so that individuals can get the services and supports they need to remain in Northern Virginia.
  - **Expand services** for individuals with intensive medical and behavioral needs.
  - **Implement automatic rate increases** to keep pace with rising costs and demands.
- **Expand funding for individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid waiver services**, including people with brain injuries, psychiatric disabilities, and people who are blind, deaf/hard of hearing, or deaf-blind. Creation of new waivers for unserved populations would reduce the amount of state general fund dollars needed for their services.
- **Increase funding for the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, and Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** so they can serve all individuals who need employment services such as vocational rehabilitation and supported employment and prevent the need for waiting lists.
- **Fund development of creative new models for day support and employment services** that are based on individual needs and preferences.

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