Office of Developmental Programs Updates

ISAC August 18, 2026



Federal Updates: Olmstead Guidance Recission

- Federal Register July 20, 2026 - Department of Justice issued clarification that previously issued guidance by DOJ, titled “Statement of the Department of Justice on Enforcement of the Integration Mandate of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and *Olmstead* v. *L.C.* ” (*Olmstead* Guidance), and similar guidance documents are not enforceable.
- The Department will not rely upon the *Olmstead* Guidance in its enforcement of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

August 2026

Dear Pennsylvanians with disabilities, families, advocates, and allies:

In the wake of recent federal actions targeting the disability community, I wanted you to hear directly from me that the Commonwealth remains committed to protecting your rights, dignity, independence, and active participation in our communities.

I have your back and as long as I am Governor, my Administration will work to ensure you can live, work, and participate in the community of your choosing. Since I became your Governor three and a half years ago, my Administration has worked to protect and expand disability rights. A key part of that work has been ensuring Pennsylvanians with disabilities are treated with dignity and respect and have a say in the decisions that affect their life.

The Americans with Disabilities Act and the United States Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision protect people with disabilities from discrimination and unjustified segregation.

For generations, people with disabilities were too often separated from their families and communities and given little say in where or how they lived. The disability community fought to change that, and Pennsylvania is better because of that advocacy. My Administration is continuing that work and building on it.

In April, I signed three Executive Orders to reaffirm and strengthen our commitment to disability rights and protections, creating the Governor's Advisory Commission on People with Disabilities, protecting disability-related information, and continuing the work of the Developmental Disabilities Council.

I created the Advisory Commission to provide those with disabilities a voice in the decisions made on issues important to their community. People with disabilities deserve a real seat at the table. They deserve to be heard, respected, and included when government makes decisions that affect their lives.

At the same time, we have put real resources behind this commitment, supporting Pennsylvanians with a wide range of disabilities and at every stage of life. The 2024—25 bipartisan budget included $354.8 million in state and federal funding to expand home-and community-based services and strengthen the direct support workforce — and my Administration secured $74 million in the 2026-27 budget to continue this work. Today, more than 42,000 Pennsylvanians with intellectual disabilities

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Multi-Year Program Growth Strategy

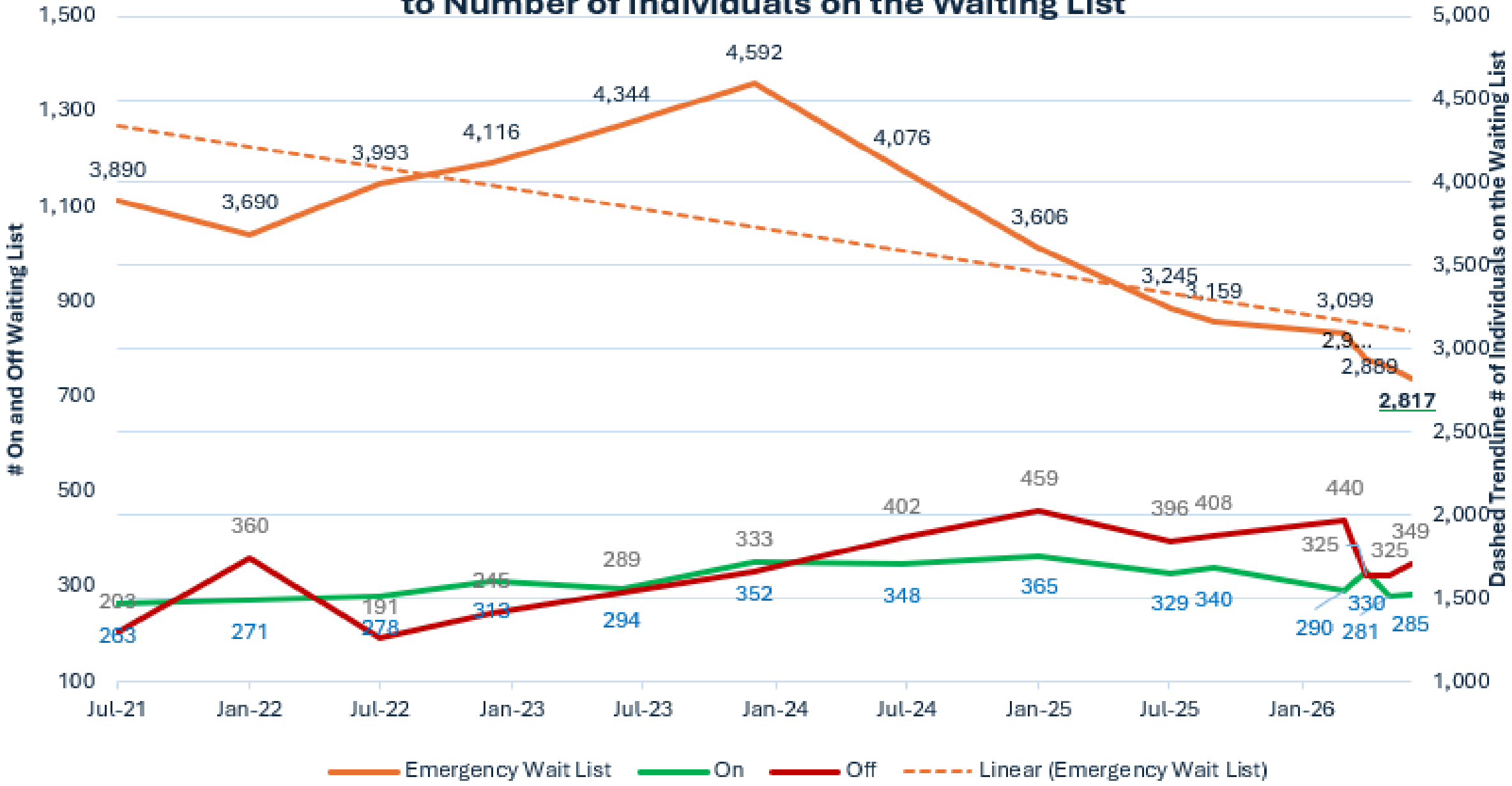
As of June 30, 2026 the Adult Emergency Waiting List has been decreased by 39% since the start of the Multi Year Program Growth Strategy.

The following counties have been able to eliminate their Adult Emergency Waiting Lists:

Lawrence

Forest/Warren

Number of Individuals Age 21+ Emergency Category On and Off the Waiting List Compared to Number of Individuals on the Waiting List



Multi Year Program Growth Strategy

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Major investments coupled with management to budget:

- 3000+ additional adults enrolled in CW and CLW
- 2 quarters full implementation 474 individuals served through QBACA approvals
- FY26-27 $76M to continue MYPGS

New management tools:

- AE MYPGS Dashboard
- QBACA
- PUNS Supplemental and Manual Updates
- Utilization review protocol



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One Person Residential Habilitation

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

Reduction in 1 Person Residential Habilitation

- Concluded information gathering through multiple formal stakeholder discussion groups
- Development of draft residential habilitation guidance complete
  - Includes 1 person homes guidance and review protocols
- August AE forum includes review of draft
- Additional stakeholder feedback to occur in September and October
- Target for publication of guidance December 2026

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Guidance Overview

- Criteria to guide ISP team planning and AE authorization in determining the appropriateness and need for 24/7 licensed residential habilitation
- Specific ISP team guidance related to the need for a 1-person residential habilitation
  - Health and safety needs can only be met in 1 person home
  - Plan to support individual to develop skills to live with others
  - Clear instruction that authorization must be based on need
  - ISP teams will be expected to evaluate on routine basis need for and progress toward transition to living with others or alternative to licensed residential habilitation

Pennsylvania
Department of Human Services

One-Person Residential Service Authorization Review Form [Draft]

- Designed to promote person-centered planning, enhance safeguards, and ensure that one-person residential settings are used only when they are the most appropriate and least restrictive option for the individual
- Guide for teams in evaluating whether a one-person residential home continues to be necessary, to identify any risks associated with limited natural oversight in these settings, and to document the supports or strategies needed to increase community participation, safety, and meaningful connection.
- Draft includes expectation for all individuals receiving residential habilitation in 1 person setting reviewed in CY2027