



December 31, 2025

The Honorable Wes Moore
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: FY 2027 Operating Budget Request

Dear Governor Moore:

On behalf of [Service Coordination, Inc.](#) (SCI), we are writing to thank the Moore administration for continued support for Marylanders with disabilities, older adults and their families. As the FY 2027 budget is developed, we request that the administration prioritize funding for disability, aging communities and associated workforce support. If cost containment measures are necessary, we respectfully request commitment to minimize harm to people supported and consideration of people on waitlists and registries for services. Further, we request commitment to a process of long-term service systems reform planning necessary to ensure sustainability and equity within Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and aging care services across the state.

SCI is a nonprofit, providing conflict-free case management services and advocacy for more than 16,000 people of all ages with disabilities and medically complex needs across Maryland. SCI is the largest nonprofit case management organization in Maryland, employing nearly 1,100 team members, many of whom are Coordinators of Community Services (CCS) and Supports Planners (SPS) providing critical conflict-free case management services for people applying for and enrolled in various Medicaid Waiver and State Plan programs. SCI helps people navigate complex systems by championing choice, fostering community and nurturing connections.

SCI team members currently participate as members of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Waiver Advisory Council, MDH DDA Sustainability and Equity Committee, the MDH Community Options Advisory Council and other opportunities facilitated by MDH or the Governor's office. We are appreciative of these opportunities to serve as a resource in strengthening services and the systems that provide essential services.

SCI Programs Overview

Under the Maryland Department of Health's (MDH) authority, SCI operates two Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) programs that advance our mission of providing quality case management to people in a way that honors their individualized needs, choices and respects their dignity and rights. Our approach promotes individualized support, maximizing available community-based resources, natural supports and paid services and supports. Conflict-free case management stands as a cornerstone of an effective and trustworthy system for HCBS. By prioritizing independence and objectivity, case managers explore an array of options and help people navigate service systems, including eligibility and redetermination processes. With an unbiased case management system, people are more likely to receive necessary care and an array of services and resource options that truly reflect their unique needs, preferences, and choices. This approach not only enhances the trust and accountability within the service delivery system but also significantly improves the quality of care for those it serves, ultimately empowering people to lead self-determined lives in their communities.

Service Coordination, Inc.

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Coordination of Community Services (CCS) Program

SCI's Coordination of Community Services (CCS) program is authorized under the Maryland Medicaid State Plan Amendment and administered by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). In this program, SCI serves more than 12,000 people of all ages, between the waitlist and those receiving Home and Community Based Services.

Supports Planning Services (SPS) Program

SCI's Supports Planning Services (SPS) program is authorized under the Maryland Medicaid State Plan Amendment and administered by the Medical Care Programs Administration, Office of Long-Term Services and Support (OLTSS). SCI provides Supports Planning case management to over 4,000 people of all ages enrolled in Medicaid Waiver and State Plan Home and Community Based programs.

We respectfully ask that the FY 2027 Budget includes:

- 1. Ensure adequate funding of rates for home and community-based providers and cost of living adjustments.**

Adequate rates for home and community-based providers are essential to ensuring that MDH and community service providers can continue to provide vital supports that enable people to live and work in their communities.

In 2017, MDH engaged in an independent and cost-driven rate-setting study, which revealed significant gaps in funding for community-based services and supports. Despite MDH's commitment to capacity-building strategies, which include rate increases, many services are still not funded at 100% of the finalized rates. While rate cuts across the board and for specific services can be implemented timely, they jeopardize the integrity of the rate-setting process and further exacerbate existing funding gaps and risk further diminishing the availability and quality of critical services. **To ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of HCBS, SCI recommends that MDH engage with the representative stakeholder group and independent experts to continue to evaluate and enhance the current rates and rate-setting process while maintaining the progress that has already been made and identifying new opportunities for improvement.**

- 2. Reduce waiting lists for waiver programs and restore funding.**

In 2022, the End the Wait legislation was enacted to assist thousands of Marylanders awaiting services, requiring sufficient funding in the annual budget. Six million dollars of additional funding was added to the FY 2026 budget to facilitate the implementation of End the Wait. However, Maryland waiver program waiting lists and registries remain high, with approximately 4,000 people on the DDA waitlist and 23,000 on the Community Options Waiver registry. The implementation plan and associated funding are vital for those in need. Continued stakeholder engagement to identify and implement best practices to reduce waiting lists is critical. **We request continued funding to support this critical initiative and efforts to enhance both community provider and MDH capacity to implement waitlist reduction plans for each HCBS waiver.**

3. Include funding for expansion for transitioning youth, emergencies and children aging out of foster care and entering services in FY 2027. Fund a full year of service for all eligible transitioning youth.

Expanding the MDH budget is not only a vital investment in the future of our youth and vulnerable populations but also a move towards creating a more sustainable and effective service delivery system. By addressing these critical areas, we can ensure that all people have the opportunity to lead fulfilling and independent lives. **SCI requests inclusion of funding for expansion of these services.**

4. Ensure adequate staff and other resources within the Maryland Department of Health, Developmental Disabilities Administration and Medical Care Programs Administration.

A strong Maryland Department of Health is necessary to ensure that people with disabilities, older adults and people with complex medical needs can access essential services. These programs are complex to administer and navigate. **We request that resources are allocated to MDH to ensure the department can successfully fulfill their obligations to the people of Maryland and service providers across the state.**

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about SCI and the services that we provide, please contact Sarah Butts, Vice President of Government Relations, at sbutts@sc-inc.org or 240-741-2273.

Sincerely,



Tenneille Aleshire, Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer