

Please send your letter to Governor Hogan by December 2, 2019!

To contact the Governor by email:

- 1) Option 1 – use the suggested talking points to compose your own message
Option 2 – use the template to compose your message. Make it your own and enter necessary changes to reflect your role, responsibilities, and importance of your work.
- 2) Cut and paste the following link into your web browser:
<https://governor.maryland.gov/contact-the-governor/>
- 3) For the message topic, choose “Developmental Disabilities Administration.”
- 4) Either type or cut and paste your letter into the message box
- 5) Complete the required fields and click “Submit”

To contact Governor Hogan by mail, send your typed or handwritten letter to:

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Option 1 - Talking Points for a Customized Letter

- Urge Governor Hogan to include at least a 4% rate increase for DDA-licensed community providers in his FY21 budget.
- Briefly describe the supports you/your loved one receives.
- Briefly describe how supports make it possible for you/your loved one to live, work, volunteer, socialize, etc., in the community.
- Briefly describe what your life/the life of your loved one might be like without community supports
- As more people with developmental disabilities seek and gain employment and other community-based opportunities, **at least a 4% rate increase** is needed in order to ensure minimally adequate funding for a strong direct support workforce, transportation, training, and other key components.
- Encourage the Governor to be a partner with the developmental disability community and to include enough funding in his budget to make sure that you/your loved one can continue to live a life of dignity and of your/their own choosing.

Option 2 - Letter Template

Dear Governor Hogan:

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) depend on Direct Support Professionals (DSP) from providers like The Arc to help live successful, integrated lives in communities across the state of Maryland.

[Optional – include a brief description of how direct supports make a difference for you/your loved one’s life, and what it might be like without them]

DSPs are the foundation of the community-based service delivery model and their wages fail to reflect the complex and vital work that they do to ensure people with I/DD are safe and provided opportunities to live their life as they choose. To stabilize the DSP

workforce, the State of Maryland must the bring wages for direct support staff in line with the vast responsibility and importance of the job.

With that in mind, **I respectfully ask for your support to include at least a 4% rate increase for DDA-licensed community providers in your FY21 budget.** This decision directly impacts me and the thousands of Marylanders in the I/DD community. Show us that you value this life-changing line of work enough to include funding in your budget to make sure that providers like The Arc can continue to make a difference in our lives.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]