

SPD Waitlists

Issue: The Services for Persons with Disabilities (SPD) program's waitlist exceeds 1,000 individuals with 332 people with no service at present and 703 individuals receiving support through existing programs which either do not meet their needs – some over, others under serviced – or are not of their choosing either by model of service or by location.

Current Situation:

- There are currently a total of 1,035 individuals on the SPD waitlist requiring a residential support option. Of the 1,035, there are 332 individuals receiving no SPD supports, 420 individuals receiving support in their family home and 283 individuals receiving other types of residential/community supports.
- Of the 332 individuals on the waitlist with no supports, 62 are in hospital ready for discharge (43 of these individuals require the highest level of support). There is no capacity in the SPD system to accommodate these individuals.
- The department will develop a 10 year plan to transform the SPD Program. Detailed program planning and financial analysis is underway, with the support of Stylus Consulting and IRIS.

Background

- Nova Scotia has the highest rates of disabilities in every major health category and the highest rate of self-reported disability in the country. Nova Scotia also has a disproportionate, relative to other Canadian jurisdictions, number of people with disabilities living in larger congregate residential environments.
- To maintain the sustainability of the system, we need to enable persons with disabilities to remain in their homes connected to their families, friends and neighbours.

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