

**Department of Health and Social Services**

**Division of Services for Aging and  
Adults with Physical Disabilities  
(DSAAPD)**



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**Joint Finance Committee Hearing  
Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**

**February 26, 2025**

Good Morning, Representative Williams, Senator Paradee, members of the Joint Finance Committee and members of the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today and present our accomplishments and Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget.

## Accomplishments

### Aging in Place Supports

- Wait list reductions
- Home Modification Program

### Collaborations

- Caregiving initiatives
- Direct Care Workforce Intensive Technical Assistance



We are proud to report on some of our accomplishments over the last year.

Thanks to the additional investment of \$1.6 million dollars from the Delaware General Assembly, DSAAPD was able to connect more than 20,000 individuals to services in FY2024, resulting in a 16% overall reduction in our waitlist and significant reduction in wait times for these vital services.

The Home Modification initiative is supported with one-time ARPA federal funding and aims to create a single, uniform, cohesive home modification program infrastructure for all disability-serving agencies in Delaware.

DSAAPD continues to partner with the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS) to explore ways to implement recommendations that resulted from the Family Caregivers Task Force.. DSAAPD continues to leverage funding, primarily from federal sources, to offer respite opportunities for caregivers to take a much-needed break.

DSAAPD partnered with DDDS, the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA), and the Department of Labor (DOL) to secure intensive Technical Assistance through the Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center. Delaware was one of six states selected to receive up to 250 hours of (free) technical assistance that will help us to identify strategies to better recruit and retain these essential employees.

# FY 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget

(\$ in Thousands)

	GF	ASF	NSF	Total
FTEs	579.9	0	24.8	604.7
Dollars (\$)	\$76,813.2	\$4,020.5	\$12,995.2	\$93,828.9



**Budget Definitions:**

- GF – General Funds
- ASF – Appropriated Special Funds
- NSF – Non-Appropriated Special Funds
- FTEs – Full Time Equivalent Positions

This slide shows the funding included in the FY 2026 Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB).

Our Division's FY 2026 GRB is:

- \$76,813.2 [Seventy-Six Million, Eight Hundred Thirteen Thousand, Two Hundred dollars] in General Funds (GF);
- \$4,020.5 [Four Million, Twenty Thousand, Five Hundred dollars] in Appropriated Special Fund (ASF) spending authority; and
- \$12,995.2 [Twelve Million, Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand, Two Hundred dollars] in Non-Appropriated Special Funds (NSF).
- For a total of \$93,828.9 [Ninety-Three Million, Eight Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand, Nine Hundred dollars].

These funds will allow us to maintain the FY 2025 level of service while we continue to explore no and/or low-cost program improvements that meet the goals set by the Administration.

## Looking ahead

- **Aging in Place**
  - Home Modification Program
  - Healthy Aging Program expansion
- **Excellence in Long Term Care**
  - New Building – Groundbreaking



The home modification initiative will officially launch in early spring. \$3.5 million in one-time ARPA funding made available through the DMMA 9817 Spend Plan is available to support this initiative until June 30, 2026. We anticipate these funds will enable us to complete more than 145 home modifications and assistive technology installations and vehicular modifications.

As was discussed at last year's Joint Finance Committee hearing, in early 2024, DSAAPD piloted innovative new healthy aging programs at 22 senior centers throughout the state serving a total of 542 participants, many of whom had never engaged with senior center program offerings previously. In 2025, we will use the successes learned from our senior center partners to understand where we can expand healthy aging programming to support more Delawareans.

We anticipate the groundbreaking of a new facility at Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill (DHCI) later this winter. We look forward to being able to offer DHCI residents a modern building with a more home like environment and a physical atmosphere that matches the 5-star quality of our service.

# THANK YOU



Thank you for the opportunity to share some updates on our Division.