

JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Intellectual & Developmental Disability Services & Supports for Individuals on the Innovations Wait List

Kelly Crosbie, MSW, LCSW




**Director, Division of Mental Health, Developmental
Disabilities, and Substance Use Services**

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Inclusion Connects



Inclusion Connects is an initiative that connects people with I/DD to more choices and access to services and supports. It is designed to help people with I/DD, regardless of age or ability level, and their families navigate the complex system of services from birth to the end of life.

-  **Supporting the Direct Support Professional (DSP) Workforce:** Addresses workforce shortages and connects DSPs with providers and individuals with I/DD.
-  **Promoting Access to Services:** Focuses on providing access to necessary services, including those on the Innovations Waiver Waitlist.
-  **Improving Housing Access:** Enhances the housing options available for individuals with I/DD.

To see the Inclusion Connects detailed workplan, visit: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/inclusion-connects-workplan-march-2025/download?attachment>

What is the NC Innovations Waiver?

- The NC Innovations waiver covers a full range of services for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- The NC Innovations waiver is a program that covers home and community-based services for people who need "institutional level of care." Services Include:
 - Community Living & Support
 - Residential Support
 - Day Supports
 - Adaptive Technology & Supplies
 - Vehicle & Home Modifications
 - Supported Employment
 - Respite
 - Benefits Counseling
 - Community Networking
 - Community Transition

Recent Investments in the NC Innovations Waiver Program

14,736 Total Innovations Waiver Slots Today

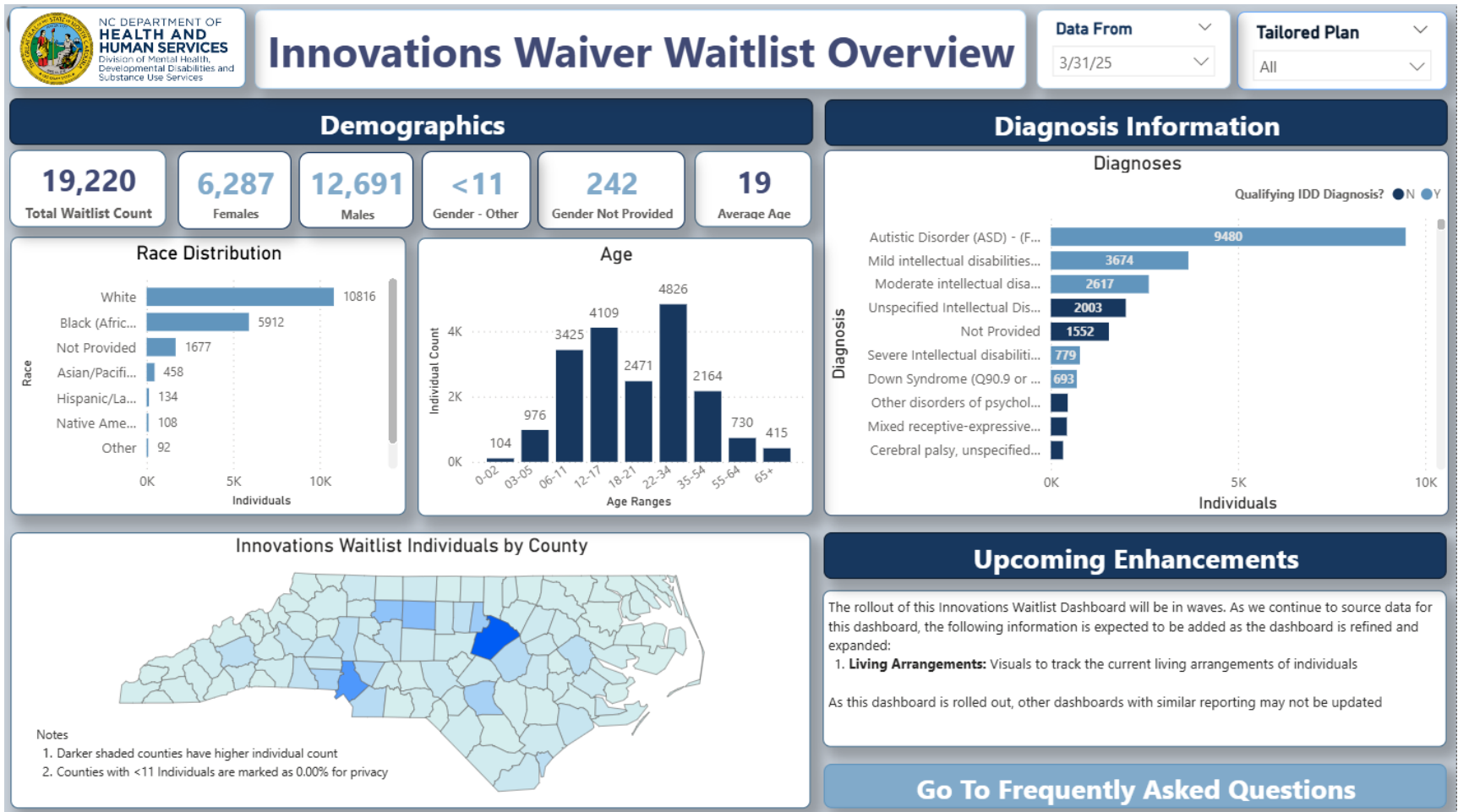
2022: 600 new slots

2023: 350 new slots

2024: 350 new slots

2025: 200 new slots requested in Governor's Budget

Innovations Waiver Waitlist



<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/about/departments/initiatives/inclusion-connects/innovations-waitlist-dashboard>

Other Services for Members on the Innovations Waitlist

- **1915i Option Services (Medicaid Only)**
 - Waiver-like services; much more limited benefit
- **Tailored Care Management (Medicaid Only)**
- **State Funded Services (Non-Medicaid & Medicaid members)**
 - Waiver-like services; very limited benefit

1915(i) Services for Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities

Skills & supports to live in the home



Community Living and Supports provides a trained worker to help with daily activities and life skills.

Job Coaching



Supported Employment to find and keep a job that's right for them.

Breaks for caregivers



Respite gives caregivers a break, while knowing that their loved one is cared for.

Supports for moving to own home



Community Transition gives up to \$5,000 in credit to help move from an approved setting to their own home.

Tailored Care Management

- **Tailored Care Management** is a service of specially trained health care workers who know the health care system: a **Tailored Care Manager**.
- **A Tailored Care Manager helps navigate a person's health care including physical, developmental, and mental health by:**
 - Arranging assessment for 1915i Services
 - Finding doctors who take Medicaid and have openings
 - Arranging rides to appointments
 - Helping access services at home and community
 - Be the main point of contact for all things Medicaid

I/DD State Funded Services

- Each LME-MCO receives single stream dollars (state funds) appropriated by the General Assembly for services for people with I/DD who do not have Medicaid.
- State funded services are limited and finite

Those services include:

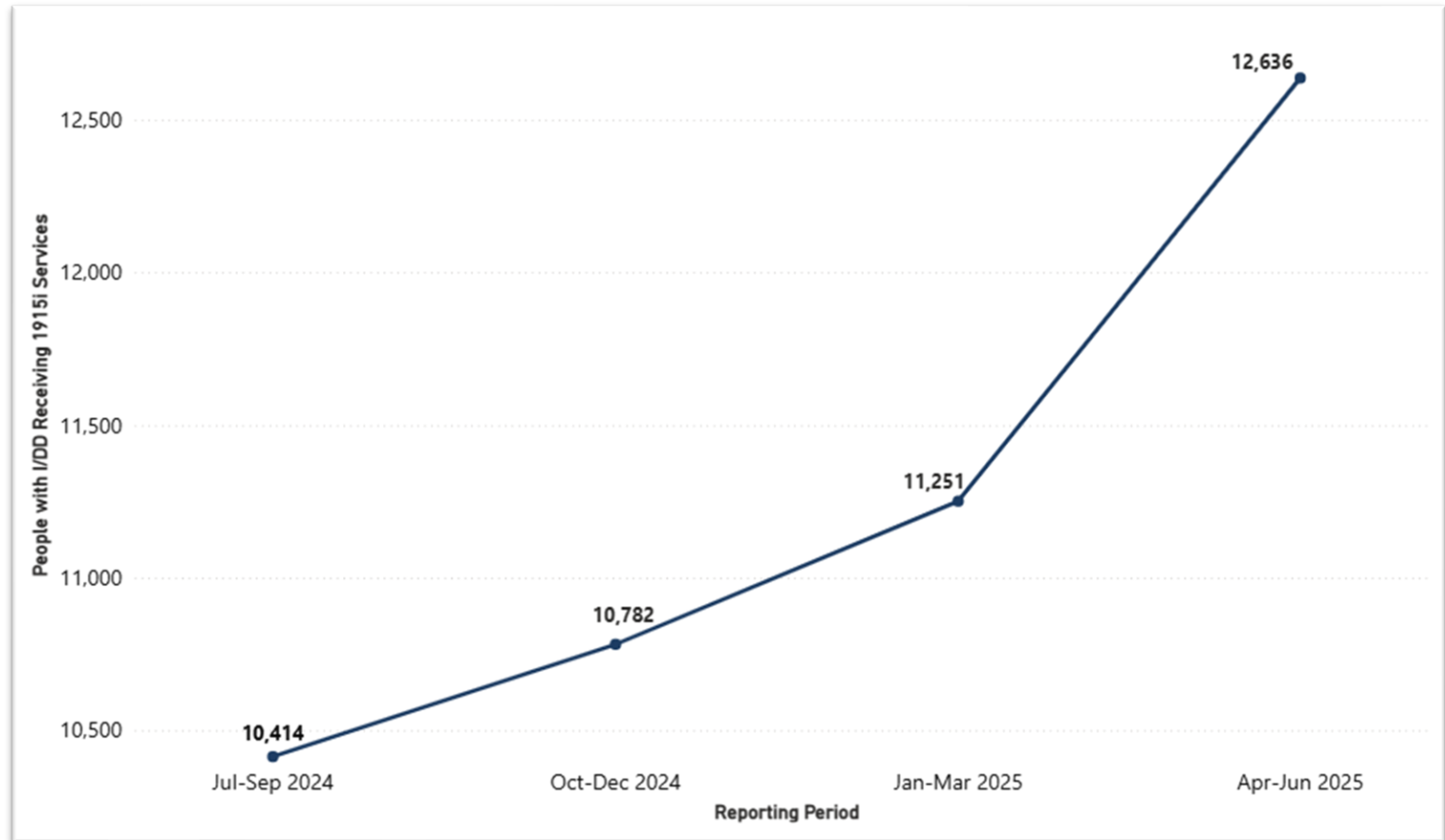
- Community Living and Supports
- Supported Employment
- Respite
- Residential Services
- Supported Living Periodic
- Day Supports
- Adult Developmental Vocational Program
- Community Engagement Options (SPARK Pilot)

Connecting with Members on the Waitlist

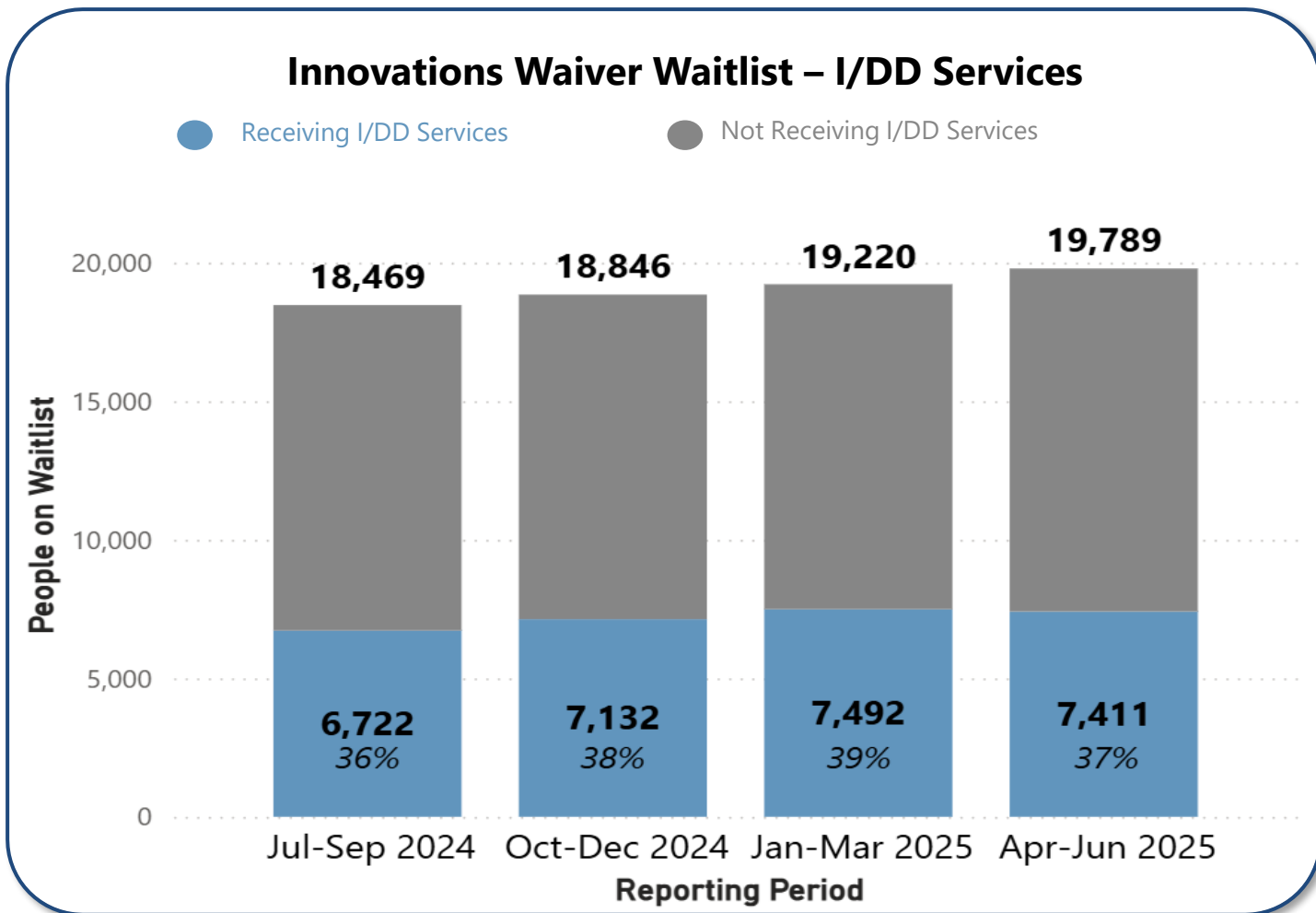
- Tailored Plan Materials
 - 119,000 visits/downloads
- Tailored Care Management Materials
 - 58,500 visits/downloads
 - 180,000 flyers printed & distributed
- 1915(i) Materials
 - 26,800 visits/downloads
- Statewide Print Distribution
 - 390 organizations across all 100 counties
 - 1.26 million people reached



More People with I/DD Are Receiving 1915(i) Services



Access to I/DD Services for People on the Waitlist



On-Going Work for I/DD Services & Supports

- **Standardizing the Innovations Waitlist Experience**
 - Increase linkage and referral to any available service & support
- **Assessing needs of those on the Innovations Waitlist**
 - How are 1915i Option services making a difference?
 - Make other unmet needs exist?
- **Recommendations to improve and restructure current Innovations Waiver**
- **We continue to work on Strengthening the Direct Support Professional workforce**
 - **DHHS Direct Support Professional Workforce Plan**

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