



Summary of Public Comments Received During Workgroup 5 Meeting #8

Thursday, March 6, 2025, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

This summary reflects the themes and ideas received from public comments provided during the workgroup meeting's public comment period. Public participants were invited to speak and share their comments with the workgroup and to share their comments using the Zoom chat and Q&A. Themes from public comments included:

Concerns About Budget Uncertainty

- Public commenters shared concerns that budget cuts could affect the availability of services and staff wages
- Public commenters advocated for the protection of Self Determination Program (SDP) budgets to maintain care at home and the flexibility to choose the services that work best

Service Availability

- Public commenters shared that DDS should prioritize support for Early Start services and life transition services above other programs
- Commenters also shared desires to ensure respite services do not replace direct individual support so individuals receive the supports that they need

Living Arrangements and Housing

- Public commenters shared their preferences for independent living without roommates, and shared issues with current living situations like small living spaces and the need for staff in shifts
- Commenters also shared recommendations to create supports like home ownership programs, including assistance with down payments
- Commenters also shared ideas like succession planning to preserve modified homes/apartments for other individuals who may benefit from living there

Other Concerns

- Public commenters requested careful wording to avoid unintended consequences when drafting the Master Plan
- Commenters also called for more discussion and stakeholder input to refine recommendations before the Master Plan is finalized