

Policy Terms in Plain Language



Affordability: The ability to pay for a service or thing, deciding if something is too expensive, and how it will be paid for.



Appropriations: Money that is set aside by formal action by Congress for a specific use. Appropriations happen once a year.



Beneficiary: A person who benefits or receives payments or services from a program like Medicaid or Social Security.



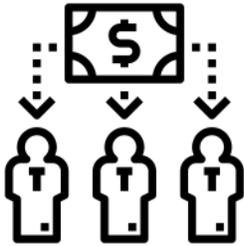
Bi-Partisan: When people of both political parties (Democratic and Republican) work together on a law.



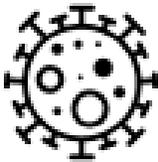
Caucus: A group of people, belonging to the same political party or with similar interests that will make decisions on policy.



Complex: Complicated or difficult to break down and understand.



Competitive Integrated Employment: Full or part-time work at minimum wage or higher, with wages and benefits similar to that for people without disabilities doing the same work, and fully integrated with coworkers without disabilities.



COVID-19: Also known as coronavirus or COVID, it is a new virus making people sick all over the world.



Direct Support Professionals (DSPs): People whose job is to provide help and support people with disabilities live their best lives. They can provide support for transportation, personal care, housing, home care, community integration and more.



Eligibility: The requirements that must be met in order to receive services or benefits from a government program like Medicaid.



Ethnicity: A group of people who share their own culture, history, language, religion, or set of traditions.



Evidence-based: Making decisions and policy that apply the findings of the best available current research or studies.



Filibuster: the attempt to stop or slow down a vote in the Senate by talking about it for a long time, trying to change the rules, or anything else to delay the vote.



Home and Community Based Services (HCBS): Supports and services to help people with disabilities live their everyday lives in their communities.



Initiatives: Plans, activities, and strategies that work toward a goal.



Infrastructure: The basic things needed to make something work.



Institutions of Higher Learning: Colleges, community colleges, and universities.



Jeopardizing: At risk or in harms way.



Law enforcement professionals: police and people who work in jobs such as security guards, school resource officers, and other jobs in the courts system.



Legislation: Policies, or other matters under consideration by Congress or other bodies that create laws.



Long-term Supports and Services (LTSS): Services that help disabled people live everyday lives. Some examples of LTSS are job coaches, transportation, and personal care assistants that help you do things in your house.



Minimum wage: the lowest amount of money that a person can legally be paid for doing a job.



Minority: a group of people with the same race or ethnicity that has less people in it than another group of people. For example, African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Pacific Islanders, Asian Indians, or Native Americans.



Onset: The beginning of something.



Paid Leave: Time off from work, with pay.



Poverty: Not having enough money to live.



Provision: Part of a law or regulation.



Race: A way we talk about groups of people based on how they look or their family history



Reauthorization: Pass or give money to again, for example approve funding for a program that was already a law.



Regulation: Instructions from a federal agency on how a law needs to be enforced.



Restraint: The action of physically keeping someone in one place.



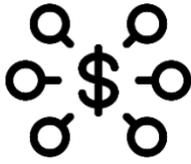
Restrictive: Putting limits on someone's freedom.



Revenues: The money that a city, county, state, or country government brings in as income, usually as taxes.



Seclusion: The state of being isolated or kept away from others.



Solvency: Having enough money to cover the costs of a program.



Subminimum Wage: Pay for a job that is less money than legally allowed.



Surplus: Extra or left-over funds.



Universal Design: Products or features that are accessible to everyone and benefit everyone.



Work Incentives: Programs from the Social Security Administration that allow people with disabilities to work and receive their monthly SSI payments. The programs can be different in each state.