

# Gov. Nixon visits St. Charles Developmental Disabilities Resource Board to discuss historic investments in developmental disability services

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Governor's FY2017 budget will increase funding for providers, keep waiting list for in-home Medicaid services at zero  
St. Charles, MO

**Gov. Jay Nixon** joined advocates and caregivers at the **Developmental Disabilities Resource Board** in St. Charles today to discuss historic investments in services for Missourians with developmental disabilities included in his Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

The Governor's budget for Fiscal Year 2017, which he presented last week in his State of the State address, invests a total of \$131 million in additional state and federal funding for the Department of Mental Health-Division of Developmental Disabilities. This includes an increase of \$14 million to ensure that there is no waiting list for in-home Medicaid services for Missourians with developmental disabilities. The Governor's budget also includes more than \$73 million in state and federal funds for providers of these essential services, including a 3 percent rate increase and rebasing to ensure all providers are paid fairly.

"We believe all Missourians – including those with developmental disabilities – deserve the opportunity to live up to their God-given potential," **Gov. Nixon** said. "From creating the Partnership for Hope to eliminating the waiting list for in-home services for low-income Missourians with developmental disabilities, we have made Missouri a nationally-recognized leader in caring for our most vulnerable citizens. This year we will build on this progress with needed investments that will benefit families and communities in every corner of our state."

The Governor's budget also includes \$5 million to expand the **Thompson Center for Autism** in Columbia, \$1 million to help launch an autism clinic at **Truman State University** and \$500,000 to expand services at the **Mercy Kids Autism Center** in St. Louis and St. Charles counties.

"Gov. Nixon has been a steadfast advocate of Missourians with disabilities and we appreciate his leadership on these issues," said **Peg Capo, Executive Director of the St. Charles Developmental Disabilities Resource Board**. "With these investments, the Governor continues to ensure that Missourians with disabilities and their families have the resources they need to live with dignity and independence."

In 2010, Gov. Nixon created the Partnership for Hope, which provides home- and community-based services to Missourians with developmental disabilities and their families. The Partnership for Hope, the first of its kind in the nation, is now helping more than 4,100 people with developmental disabilities in 103 counties and the City of St. Louis.

The Governor also made it a priority to eliminate the waiting list for in-home services for low-income Missourians with developmental disabilities. When he took office, many Missourians had to wait years for the services they needed to live independently. Today, that waiting list has been eliminated.

In 2015, United Cerebral Palsy [ranked](#) Missouri third in the nation – and second most-improved since 2007 – for providing quality services that improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

To learn more about the Partnership for Hope, visit the [Missouri Department of Mental Health](#) or click [here](#) for a video about the program.

Resource: <https://governor.mo.gov/news/archive/gov-nixon-visits-st-charles-developmental-disabilities-resource-board-discuss-historic>