

Post-Secondary Education Program Update

Barbara Wadley-Young, Acting CSB Executive Director

February 10, 2026

Board Directive

Moving forward, CSB should consider options to reduce funding needs, including the institution of a cap on support, sunsetting services not reimbursed by a Medicaid Developmental Disabilities (DD) waiver, and working with alternative service providers to develop lower cost options for families in need of PSE services. Staff should report back to the Board on progress and next steps at a Human Services Committee meeting in time for recommendations to be incorporated into the FY 2027 Advertised budget.

Post Secondary Education (PSE) Services in Context

- The Self-Directed Services (SDS) program supports adults with developmental disabilities to learn or improve important skills so they can be actively engaged in their communities. The program allows participants who do not have Medicaid Waivers to manage their own specific budgets and choose available services and providers that best meet their unique needs, preferences, and goals. SDS is under the Employment and Day Services umbrella; however, it is a more cost-effective alternative. There are currently 156 individuals receiving SDS services.

- Post-Secondary Education (PSE) is one service option in the SDS program. The program offers a variety of individual and group supports related to collegiate participation, academic engagement, and social integration. It is a joint initiative with Fairfax County Public Schools. Of the 156 individuals in the SDS program, 40 of them receive PSE services.

Post-Secondary Education Background

- The PSE program was initially introduced as a pilot under Self-Directed Services (SDS).
- It is now the costliest SDS option with an average year-to-date FY 2026 cost for an individual of $15,543. This compares to an average year-to-date FY 2026 cost for all other SDS participants not receiving PSE of $7,575. Given the significant cost, the continuation of the PSE program could compromise CSB's capacity to serve others.
- PSE is a non-mandated service that is 100% funded by the County.
- In FY 2026, 36 of 40 individuals in PSE are on the Priority 1 Waitlist for a Medicaid Waiver.
- PSE programs are not currently Medicaid Waiver-eligible. This means participants will need to transition to alternative supports once they receive a waiver.

Cost Containment Considerations

Sunset the PSE Program	Cap the level of support for PSE-like services	Work with providers on lower cost services	Sunset services not reimbursed by Medicaid Waiver
Sunset PSE at the end of FY26. No new participants will be enrolled, and the remaining participants will transition to other services. Alternative providers have been identified. 19 individuals are currently receiving tutoring and companion services.	Institute a spending cap to be consistent with the average cost of all other SDS participants not receiving PSE (currently $7,575).	Establish rates comparable to current Medicaid Waiver rates for like services. Provide technical assistance on budget.	Continue working with SDS providers to transition to "Waiver eligible" status. Technical assistance is given to current PSE/SDS providers on strategies to becoming a Medicaid Waiver provider.

Actions Taken by CSB

- Connecting current PSE participants with waiver-aligned “Companion” providers to deliver comparable support services by June 2026.
- Currently offering a more cost-effective tutoring option for former PSE participants for transition by June 2026.
- Providing technical assistance to providers utilized through the SDS program to support their enrollment as Medicaid Waiver providers. This will support smoother transitions for those newly awarded a Medicaid Waiver.
- PSE providers could find no pathway to cost reduction to align with existing, PSE-like services. With ongoing technical support from CSB staff, PSE providers are at various stages of pursuing Medicaid Waiver Provider eligibility.

FAIRFAX - FALLS CHURCH
Community Services Board

Thank you

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb