

# People with disabilities and their families are **in crisis**

## What do candidates and parties need to do?

### 1. Address unmet needs:

Unmet needs include: **Long waiting lists for children's services**. Some children with disabilities are ageing out of Early Intervention, missing key milestones and on waiting lists with no access to vital developmental supports.

No system and no investment for adults with intellectual disabilities to access **residential supports** outside of emergencies. The only plan funded for 2020 is for 64 emergencies (amounting to approximately 2.5 places per county). **2500 people with disabilities remain living in institutions**.

Across our services alone, at least **1250 parents aged 70 and over** continue to be primary carer for their adult son or daughter living at home, close to **400 of whom are over 80 years old**.

Lack of access to respite, multi-disciplinary supports and transport.

People with disabilities are **not living lives of their choosing** or having the opportunity to reach their full potential as active citizens. **These are violations of the rights of people with disabilities**.

### 2. Uphold Disability Rights:

Ireland has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; **it is time for implementation**.

We need a **Minister at Cabinet level** and an **Oireachtas Committee on Disability** to oversee implementation across all Departments.

“ I will never know if early intervention would have worked for my daughter, she aged out of the service while still on the waiting list ”  
Father

“ I want to live on my own and move out of my parent's house. I can't get any support to live independently ”  
Woman aged 42 living in the family home.

“ I dropped my son off at his day service knowing I would not be picking him up and he would not be coming home to live with me. I couldn't cope any longer ”  
Mother of a young man with ID, who is now in emergency residential support.

### 3. Invest in supports:

**Investment is needed to address needs and uphold rights.**

The National Federation, the Oireachtas Group and **the Government's own figures** indicate the need for an investment of **€211 million per annum for five years** to begin to address these rights and needs.

However, this January, disability services were informed of a **€20million cut to their budgets**. This cut is taking place in a year when there are 200 additional school leavers requiring support yet there has been no increase in the budget to support these needs. **This cut must be reversed**

**These 3 priorities must become commitments in the Programme for Government**

### Why is this crisis occurring?

Successive cuts have not been reversed, whilst the costs of insurance and compliance have risen.

The number of people requiring services has increased and happily, people are living longer. As they do, many have changing needs requiring additional support.

Due to sustained cuts and increased costs, many ID service providers are operating in deficit positions with the future continuation of their service at risk.

Section 39 agencies have not had pay restoration, leading to severe difficulties in recruitment and retention, which directly affects their capacity to provide support to people with disabilities.