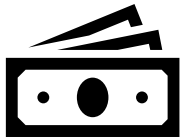


# Disability Policy Seminar: Words to Know



**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.

**Asset Limits:** The largest amount of resources (for example: cash, bank accounts, land, personal property) that a person can have and still get Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Individuals who have more than \$2,000 in assets and married couples with more than \$3,000 do not qualify for SSI.



**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.

**Debt Ceiling:** The amount of debt the federal government is allowed to have. Congress decides this amount. There has always been a national debt.



**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.



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

**Fatal:** Ending in death.



**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.

**Institutional Bias:** Medicaid requires states to fund long-term supports and services (LTSS) in nursing homes but makes home and community-based services (HCBS) optional. This has led states to favor providing services in nursing homes and other institutions.

**Integrated:** When people with disabilities and people without disabilities are included together, such as in school or housing.



**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.

**Living Wage:** The amount of money someone needs to get paid to allow them and their families to meet their basic needs.



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



**Marriage Penalties:** People who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) must follow unfair rules that often force them to choose between marrying the person they love and having enough money to pay for basic needs. Marriage penalties cut benefits and limit savings for married people who receive SSI.

**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.

**Non-defense Discretionary Programs:** Government programs that are not military programs. Each year the government decides how much money to give these programs, and it can be different every year.



**Poverty:** Not having enough money to live.



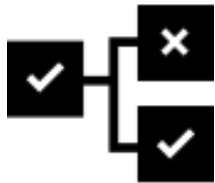
**Provision:** Part of a law or regulation.



**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.



**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.

**Social Security:** A government system that gives benefits to retired or disabled people, their spouses, and their dependent children. While a person works, they may pay taxes into the Social Security system. When they retire or are no longer able to work—that person, their spouse, and their children may get monthly benefits based on how much money they made.

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI):** A program that provides monthly cash benefits to low-income adults and children with disabilities to help them afford things they need like food, clothing, and shelter. For people to get SSI, they must have a significant disability, be blind, or be 65 years of age or older, and meet strict rules based on how much they make and how much money they have.

**Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI):** A government program that pays monthly cash benefits to certain workers who are no longer able to work because they have a significant illness or disability. People who receive SSDI will also receive Medicare after having to wait 24 months.

**Vouchers:** A government program that provides assistance for people with low-income or disabilities to find affordable housing. The government helps cover the cost of housing, and the individual gets to choose where they live.

**Waiting Lists:** Medicaid does not require states to provide home and community-based services (HCBS). In many states this means people do not have access to HCBS even though they qualify for Medicaid. Instead, they may be on a list to receive these services when slots become available.