

# Implementation Status Updates

*Bills that passed during the 2025 Legislative Session*

## Public Act 25-42, An Act Concerning The Katie Beckett Working Group Recommendations

- **Section 1:** DSS is required to lower the maximum age for Katie Beckett participants from 21 to 18.
  - *At age 18, participants become eligible for Medicaid State Plan coverage.*
- **Implementation Status:**
  - DSS has identified 153 individuals active on both the waiver and the waitlist who are 18 years or older or who will turn 18 in SFY 2026. Of these individuals, 63 will require a disability determination to transition to HUSKY C once they are removed from the waiver.
  - DSS is currently developing an outreach strategy to notify participants of the change to the program and will include the disability determination paperwork with the letter for all applicable individuals.
  - Next Steps:
    - DSS anticipates transitioning individuals off the waiver beginning in November 2025.
    - DSS will amend the waiver as required by federal and state law.

## **Public Act 25–89, An Act Concerning Autism and Intellectual Disability Services and Abuse and Neglect Investigations**

- **Section 4:** Requires DSS, in consultation with OPM, to apply for any available federal funding or private grant funding to conduct a statewide autism needs assessment.
- **Implementation Status:** DSS has secured federal funding and staff are reviewing contract options. The Department will conduct an 18–24-month project that will collect data from people living with Autism Spectrum Disorder and caregivers to identify policy and service priorities.

## Public Act 25-63, An Act Requiring Medicaid Coverage for FDA-Approved Gene Therapies to Treat Sickle Cell Disease

- **Section 1:** Requires DSS to provide Medicaid coverage for gene therapies approved by the FDA to treat sickle cell disease. The agency must also apply for any federal initiatives to increase cost-effective access to therapies, including, but not limited to, the Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model administered by CMS.
- **Implementation Status:** FDA-approved gene therapy for sickle cell disease is covered by DSS. DSS applied for, and was accepted into, the CGT Access Model. The Model start date is January 1, 2026. Additionally, the agency applied to the Notice of Funding Opportunity for federal funding and was awarded funding.

## Working Groups & Task Forces

DSS is also participating in a variety of newly created work groups and task forces, including, among others:

- **Public Act 25-167** requires a study of emergency preparedness and mitigation strategies for prescription drug shortages. The task force will identify prescription drugs at risk of shortage in the state and make recommendations to the legislature.
- **Public Act 25-16** requires a study and recommendations examining the needs of people living with Alzheimer's or dementia, and the services available to them and their families.
- **Public Act 25-48** requires a study and recommendations on the issues facing conservators in the Probate Court system, including payment delays.
- **Public Act 25-52** creates an interagency council on homelessness to advise and assist the Commissioner of Housing on improving homelessness prevention and response efforts in the state.

## **HUSKY B: Autism Services Expansion**

- DSS is finalizing the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or HUSKY B state plan amendment to incorporate autism evaluation and treatment services.
- Targeted effective date is October 1, 2025.