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**To:** [Carvalho, Joseph](#)  
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Thank you for this opportunity to provide commentary on the drafted Five Year Plan 2022-2027 for DDS. My feedback is brief .

First let me start by saying that it is encouraging to see the primary focus on individuals and families as without them there would be no need of us! That being said, the plan lacks goals and activities that would both encourage , train and support the private provider community in transitioning from traditional residential models/services to services that provide more independence, less reliance on staff for supports and that more closely resemble the lives of people not supported by DDS.

The flexibility of the funding mechanisms needs to exist to support thoughtful movement of the historical CLA and CRS programs to homes that provide the desired outcomes for people as described by Charting the Life Course. The current funding system does not easily allow for provider agencies to move forward with creative solutions for individuals without risking financial instability as an organization.

Addressing this situation within the plan will be essential to the plan's ultimate success.

As an early Charting the Life Course ambassador, I also encourage DDS to re-educate providers and offer new opportunities for training including strategies for incorporating this approach into daily practice. I believe the pandemic hampered much of this at the same time that it opened other doors such as more use of technology.

Respectfully submitted,

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