

# LSR January 2025 Review

## HCBS Medicaid Waiver Funding Cuts Anticipated Statewide!!

During the pandemic there was a program called the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that provided financial assistance, in various forms to states to recover. The Wyoming Legislature chose to use some of this money, \$3.86 million to pay some of the state's share of home and community based waiver costs to increase rates for services. ARPA money must be used and will end on March 31, 2025. If that money is not replaced, rates to providers of these services will be reduced to 2022 rates. As you would imagine, 2022 rates are much less than the current rates, some by as much as 43.1%. That is not sustainable. We are not asking for anything additional, just to not be cut back to 2022 rates.

One of the requirements of the ARPA dollars was that they had to be used for wages and benefits for the Direct Support Professional Workforce. LSR complied with that requirement and raised our DSP's wages. Which are still below many private sector businesses. Our hard-working DSPs are working class people who sometimes need to work multiple jobs just to make ends meet and reducing existing wages would make that even more difficult for them. They are members of our community who live, work, shop, and purchase services here.

We need everyone's help in letting our Wyoming State elected officials know that not covering the reduction in ARPA funds to the HCBS Medicaid Waivers with general state dollars will have a major impact on services being provided to individuals with disabilities in Wyoming.

## Updates to the Afton Building

The front of the Afton Office entrance and stucco edging along the front of the building were repaired/updated this fall. The rock along the front of the entrance was crumbling and allowing water to leak through into the building. The stucco edging was peeling off from snow and ice over the years.





# Getting Together for the Holidays

Afton and Thayne LSR have had a great Holiday Season! Enjoying all the parties and getting to hang out with friends and family that we cherish!



During Thanksgiving, we gathered Afton and Thayne locations together to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal and play bingo.



As always, the highlight of this holiday season was seeing Santa Clause on our girl's trip to Idaho Falls to do Christmas shopping!



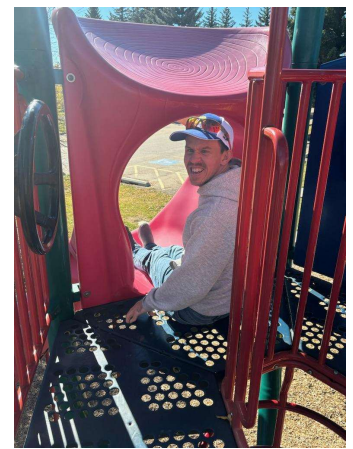
Thayne also got to go to the Community Center, have hot cocoa and cookies, make ornaments, and got to see Santa AGAIN!





# Fun in Evanston

The Evanston location enjoyed lots of activities, both indoor and outside! They went to a pumpkin patch and got to pick out their own pumpkins to carve for Halloween. They also went bowling, and got to spend some time at the park! They enjoyed swinging and the slides!



# 22 Years at LSR



“Hi! My name is Shirley Deason I’m the Diamondville Program Manager. I have worked for LSR for 22 years now. Where has the time went LOL. I have worked with some very great people in my time here and I have learned a lot from each of them. Darrel has done a great job on how big LSR is today and I have had the pleasure of watching him making it a great company.

One thing I took away from everyone is to have an open door policy and make sure that you’re actively listening to the staff/clients and make them feel like they are the most important thing going on right at that time. I have loved working with all of the clients, I love the one on one time with each of the clients and when I can make them feel like they are the most special person, that is what this job is all about. I love my relationships with both my staff and my clients. I’m also so thankful for all of the staff in Afton /Thayne and Evanston and how they keep me on the right track!”

- Shirley Deason, Diamondville Program Manager

“I have had the opportunity to work with and supervise Shirley for twenty-one plus years. When Susan Park, Kemmerer/Diamondville Program Manager, retired, LSR had a hard time finding someone who wanted the position. Shirley committed to the job after some encouragement and has been doing a great job ever since. She is very compassionate towards both the clients as well as her support staff. She is a people pleaser and tries her hardest to make sure everyone’s needs are addressed in a fair manner. Shirley has been someone that I have been able to rely on to always be there and help wherever she can. Thank you Shirley for your commitment to the clients, your staff, and LSR.”

- Darrel Skinner, Executive Director

“Shirley is the best boss ever. You can come to her with questions about work or just to chat. She is number 1!!!! in my book.

BEST person ever!!!

When I think about Shirley it reminds me of this quote ‘Train people well enough that they can leave. TREAT them well enough so they don’t want to!’”

- Jessie Newell, Direct Support Professional

“I’ve worked with Shirley for 15 years. She is one of the most giving, humble and understanding people I have had a pleasure of working with. Lincoln Self Reliance is grateful for her determination and hard work during her 22 years of employment. Its been a pleasure to work along side of you Shirley!!”

- Kallie Bennion, Senior Administrative Assistant



# Staff Years of Service For This Quarter

## One Year:

Corinne Sellers (Afton, Thrift Store Employee)

Tammy Neumann (Afton, Thrift Store Employee)

Brian Payne (Evanston, Direct Support Professional)

## Three Years:

Kristi Blakeman (Evanston, Direct Support Professional)

Bruce Plott (Evanston, Maintenance)

## Four Years:

Kimberly Holt (Thayne, Program Manager)

## Five Years:

Joanne Risedorf (Thayne, Direct Support Professional)

## Nine Years:

Gaylen Koyle (Evanston, Lead Direct Support Professional)

## Twenty Two Years:

Shirley Deason (Diamondville, Program Manager)

It is our mission to provide training and support to individuals with disabilities, so they may achieve maximum potential for self-reliance and active participation in the community.

# LSR

**Lincoln Self Reliance, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1449  
1038 S. Washington  
Afton, WY 83110

[www.lsrservices.org](http://www.lsrservices.org)

**AFTON**

P.O. Box 1449  
1038 S. Washington  
Afton, WY 83110

Phone: 307-885-1577  
Fax: 307-885-2577

**THAYNE**

250 Van Noy Parkway  
Thayne, WY 83127

Phone: 307-883-2577  
Fax: 307-883-5578

**EVANSTON**

100 Bear River Drive  
Evanston, WY 82930

Phone: 307-789-2037  
Fax: 307-789-0407

**DIAMONDVILLE**

P.O. Box 367  
20 Adaville  
Diamondville, WY 83116

Phone: 307-877-1321  
Fax: 307-877-5774



**LSR**  
**Thrift Store**  
307-885-1577 Ext.218

**Monday-Friday 10:00am-5:00pm**  
**Saturdays 10:00am-2:00pm**  
**Sundays Closed**

**Mission Statement**

It is our mission to provide training and support to individuals with disabilities, so they may achieve maximum potential for self reliance and active participation in the community.

**Board of Directors**

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