Write for Right!

Better advocacy through letter writing for consumers, family members and support providers.
Hello everyone,

The following packet contains tips, information, and samples to assist you in contacting your elected representatives.

Times are rough, and as it stands, each and every consumer, family, and support provider face life shattering cuts to the services and supports that insure that all Californians have a shot at a quality life of their choosing!

We can't stress enough that your elected representatives are there to do just that – REPRESENT YOU – and that the best (and only way) for them to have a glimpse into your lives is to give them one through direct contact!

The only way we stand a chance in mitigating the enormity of these cuts is by rallying a cry so loud and large that we must be heard!

Please feel free to contact us anytime in the coming weeks for a schedule of letter writing open houses, hearings, call-in drives, and in person visits!

The time to act is now – before irreparable damage is done directly to people’s lives!

Sincerely,

Josh Sullivan
Program Coordinator
ALIVE East
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Section I - 6 Tips from what we have learned so far...

Our consumers and staff members have been in direct contact with our elected representatives for decades now and have six basic tips and tricks we would like to share.

1. **You are your elected official’s boss – not the other way around!**
   It may be scary the first few times you reach out to Sacramento (or Washington for that matter) but always try to remember – your elected representatives are there to **represent you and your interests!**

2. **Make it personal!**
   In contacting your elected officials, don’t approach the situation like a professional lobbyist would – leave that to them! We often use simple language with a personal tone – as if you were out for coffee with a co-worker or friend. For Example:
   
   ... *If the next wave of cuts happen, I fear the system will lose $1,250,650 from the SSI/SSP system. That equates to $55 from each SSI recipient's dispersion...*
   
   ... *I am afraid that if these terrible cuts happen, I just don’t know how I am going to be able to pay for my groceries next month...*

3. **Numbers Schmumbers!**
   It’s okay to use numbers and fine details when convenient – but it’s not 100% necessary. In fact, one of the best approaches is to simply (and emotionally) explain how the current issue will affect your life, your family’s lives, and your local community or economy. Basically, use numbers to impact the personal nature of your letter – not take from it:
   
   ... *If these cuts pass, I will lose $55 from my SSI check every month...*
   
   ... *I am afraid that if these terrible cuts happen, I just don’t know how I am going to be able to keep providing for my son, $55 dollars means a week of diapers and baby food that simply won’t be there...*

4. **Pictures really do speak a thousand words!**
   Some time ago, we started adding pictures to our outreach letters and we found that this alone greatly increased the follow up rate with the entity we were writing to. Adding a face and story to any issue brings an element of humanity to it – and sadly, people are too often lost in a battle of numbers. Plus, it’s harder to shred a face than a block of text!
5. **Keep cookie cutters in the kitchen!**

With any letter writing campaign there will be a variety of sample letters that help to give you a better idea of the current issue and how to reach out. **As tempting as it may be – try not to just plug in your name and shoot it off!** Instead, use it as a guide for talking points.

Even though we have to admit that even a form letter is better than no letter at all, taking the time to show your elected officials that the issue was important enough to you that you didn't just sign onto a form letter is **priceless**!

6. **Length matters!**

When writing letters try and keep them short and to the point, unlike these tips 😊! Remember that it is better to write several shorter letters over one marathon length letter. Shoot for one page if possible.
Although the following letters may not address the current issue at hand, they serve as an example of what a sample letter usually looks like.

Sample letters vary in tone and composition based on the targeted writer (Consumer, Staff, Parent, Agency, etc.).
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Dept. of Developmental Services Budget Cuts

Senator DeSaulnier:

The proposed cuts to the services that directly affect my [name relation] life are simply too much for me, my family and other families like mine to bear. My [name relation] relies on essential community-based services to live a quality life of his/her choosing.

These cuts would take away over 20% of the budget that pays for every service I use. That means all of the services that let my [name relation] live the life he/she chooses are at risk and that is simply unacceptable. My [name relation] should not have to lose 20% of his/her life because the state has decided to get its act together.

Even in this mess, there has to be a way to cut from things – not people. Why do these cuts have to target one of California’s most vulnerable populations? People with developmental disabilities have suffered enough! Cuts this big to DDS ensure that people will lose essential services!

These cuts threaten the very foundation of the state’s promise to let my [name relation] live a quality life. There is no way California can maintain its integrity if cuts of this magnitude are implemented.

Please find a way to save California without taking away [actual name of person]’s life.

Sincerely,

XXXXX XXXXX
Title

cc: Governor Jerry Brown
Members of the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services
Members of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: DDS Cuts

Senator DeSaulnier,

Please stop the cuts to DDS, and my day program, and my group home [name all services used]. My name is [person’s name]. I have [name disability].

I don’t understand how I am supposed to have any type of life if these cuts happen. We have already been cut too many times!

I have already been hurt by them because [name a problem w/services if one exists]. Taking 20% more away from every service that helps me live in the community is telling me that I don’t matter anymore.

Please don’t let your choices take away from mine,

Person’s Name  
Address

[Person’s Picture Here or above text]
The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Dept. of Developmental Services Budget Cuts

Senator DeSaulnier,

My name is [state your name] and I provide community support for people with developmental disabilities in your constituency through Futures Explored, Inc.

I love my job and am lucky enough to see the amazing things people with developmental disabilities do to give back to our community and economy every day. As a constituent myself, I value my job and with it, my ability to contribute to my local community and economy as well!

I just don’t understand why California’s budget continues to take away from the lives of our most vulnerable populations. The people I support will continue to require the same level of care that they need now and ultimately, community based living costs the state ten times less than being institutionalized – which is the only other real option for the people I support other than death.

Right now, the people I support are as far from a ‘burden of the state’ as I am. I am afraid though if these cuts pass unchecked my family, my coworkers, and myself will be in need of state support without being able to contribute or pay taxes!

Please cut from things rather than people. You can replace things; but you can’t replace lives,

Sincerely,

Name
Address
Phone Number
The following letters are examples of the different tone and structure that we have used in the past when writing to our representatives.

Most of these letters come from ALIVE’s Consumer Action Committee. As time goes on we hope to add more family member and support provider letters.
Senator Mark DeSaulnier  
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814  

Re: Cuts to DDS – Cuts to my life.

Senator DeSaulnier,

My name is Kevin Christie, I am a working, voting constituent with a developmental disability. After reading about the potential cuts to the DD system this year, I am terrified.

If these cuts pass the way they are today, I don’t know how I am going to keep living. I use a wheelchair, speak ASL (and use a device to let me communicate with people who don’t), and need assistance with all of my personal needs.

I can tell you that I already live well below the poverty level and an additional 20% more taken out of my life would actually threaten it! I am already barely living with the cuts of the last few years – I can’t find an accessible place to live and my health is getting worse and worse.

Long ago, California made a promise to people like me – please don’t break it or take it back all together.

I just want a chance to live like anyone else.

Please be the hero our community so desperately needs. Please be my voice in Sacramento. Be the hero my community needs so bad!

Please don’t take my life away,

Kevin Christie  
505 W. 7th St.  
Antioch Ca, 94509
Andrew Gamboa
1000 Claudia Ct., Apt. 53
Antioch, CA 94509

March 10, 2010

To my elected officials:

My name is Andrew Gamboa and I am a voting constituent who has a developmental disability.

I am a person with a disability who is trying to live an independent life. I have cerebral palsy - it does not have me. I use a power wheelchair to get to where I need to go. I work, play, and pay taxes like everyone else. I use various support services that directly assist me daily. These include IHSS, SLS, ALIVE (my day program in Antioch), as well as Regional Center support.

Last year, all of the services that I NEED to live a ‘normal’ life (a life that was promised to me through Entitlement and the Lanterman Act) suffered a long line of massive cuts. We were told at first we would be cut a mere 3% - the knife must have slipped though because we ended up having to cut over 334 MILLION Dollars from our already suffering services and systems that provide direct support. We have been cut so often and deep that we are basically on life support. How can we live the ‘normal’ lives you promised when we can’t even get the help we need to get out of bed?

During the process of figuring out how and where the cuts would take place last year, we were repeatedly asked our opinions at DDS meetings, Townhall meetings, and hearings at the state capitol. DDS even formed a stakeholder group and the overwhelming response from the entire community was to cut from the top down so our lives wouldn’t be in ruins.

It seems our voices went unheard...

Please, please, please quit cutting from services that directly support myself and fellow Californian’s that are developmentally disabled. The services that directly affect my life are barely hanging on as it is – any more cuts and I won’t have any direct services, or a life!

You didn’t just cut deep into the system, you cut deep into my life.

Andrew Gamboa
Dear elected officials,

My name is Danon Jenkins. I am a mother of two and work in a day program for adults with developmental disabilities. I am writing because these crucial budget cuts are affecting myself, family, and friends in a major way. My son received Early Intervention provided by Regional Center up to age three. With the early therapy we have a better opportunity not to need state funded services in the future. Might I add, the Early Intervention is now cut, it no longer exists!

Both of my children are now using the public school system which is also experiencing deep cuts. Now the deepest cuts are to our disabled community. It is more sensible to cut from things like roads, DMV, or raise taxes. Instead you cut from people and the services that help provide a healthy and more enjoyable life. This is outrageous and it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure it out. These are our brothers and our sisters and the children who are our future that is in jeopardy because of selfish choices of funding. It is actually very simple. A human’s well-being top priority and everything else can follow behind.

Thank you for listening and I look forward to seeing change.

Sincerely,

Danon Jenkins
To my California lawmakers:

My name is Brianne Summeril. I am a developmentally disabled adult with Williams Syndrome. It’s a genetic disorder and it affects a lot of my life. Even though I live at home with my family, I need help to learn how to grow and be a part of my community. I attend a day program called ALIVE in Antioch and really like it a lot. I haven’t been going to ALIVE for too long but it’s a great program and more importantly, it’s a great program for me. I have a ton of fun getting out. I have made a ton of friends. I am learning to be an independent woman, advocate, and activist. I am even getting training to get a paid position as a receptionist!

Before I started ALIVE I went to another program that wasn’t really my cup of tea. They didn’t really treat me the way I wanted to be treated and I didn’t really have many friends there. With the help of my family and Regional Center Case Manager, I was able to find a program that fit me.

Last year when the trailer bill language included the enormous cuts to our system took place, a thing called the Least Costly Provider did too. This really scares the hell out of me!

The Least Costly Provider is a change in the promise of the Lanterman Act (the promise that was made to Californians that all people – no matter what – were entitled to have the chance to live a normal life of their choosing) that puts a price on my life! It has the potential to allow my Case Manager to override my choice when deciding what services and supports I receive based on what costs less. Not what I need, choose, or want.

I have finally found a place that fits me. If the budget continues to go the way it’s going, how fair would it be for me to lose what took so long for me to find because another program would charge a couple dollars less per day? A program that wouldn’t necessarily provide me the services that I need.

How would you feel if someone told you that you couldn’t be a politician anymore and had to work at Walmart instead because it would save the state money?

Our direct support systems and programs are falling apart. We can’t take any more cuts! We don’t need this, we don’t deserve this. It is not fair to us and takes away from the promise that you made.

PLEASE stop and take another look and cut from the parts of the system that don’t support people directly!

Sincerely,

Brianne Summeril
To My Elected Officials in California:

I am Carl Tolentino. I am a physically disabled adult. I was not born physically disabled; I was born normal but at the age of seven I became ill with a disease called mumps. Mumps then turned into viral encephalitis which affected my motor functions and my speech. During this time I became dependent on my manual wheelchair.

When I arrived in America from the Philippines I did not expect to get services at all. What I was expecting was to get help from surgeons and doctors to help me get back on my feet or so to speak. When I finished high school however, I was still in my wheelchair and I still did not get what I needed, which is to get back on my feet. At this time I am struggling to keep up with my school work and also I do not like the idea of having another cut in the DDS system.

If you keep on cutting us the whole system will crash down into the abyss. So please, if you are going to cut us cut the people who are in the highest level of authority, which should be you; my elected officials. Cut your own salary before you cut us and see how it feels to be cut down to bare bones!

Please consider my letter and could you also send this letter to President Barack Obama so that he knows that people in California are actually struggling too.

Thank you and sincerely,

Carl Tolentino
Section IV
Current Issue’s Major Points

The following information\(^1\) contains some of the basic numbers and talking points you may want to address in your letters for the current issue.

In this case the life crushing 750m (20% +) proposed cuts to every man woman and child with a developmental disability.

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\(^1\) Source material courtesy of CDSA, Futures Explored, Inc., and Area Board 5
Family Talking Points:

- A cut this big and without detail, to a department that serves some of California’s most vulnerable residents, is not right.

- Transparency and accountability seem to have flown out the window with this budget proposal. Letting the DDS decide what cuts to make without a public process before the size of the cut is decided is wrong.

- Changing eligibility requirements, rationing the amount of services my family can get, or limiting our right to appeal decisions are not acceptable ways to cut costs.

- Families like mine will lose control of our choices, giving Regional Centers more control over what services my family will get.

- This budget proposal effectively dismantles the Lanterman Act, limiting my (son’s, daughter’s, family member’s, friend’s, etc.) opportunities to live and work in their community.
Governor's Budget Year 2011-12

The Governor has proposed a reduction of $750,000,000 to the Community Services provided in the community. His proposal has defined some reductions, some increased Federal Funding and $533,501,000 reductions by using “purchase of service” standards to limit, reduce or eliminate current choices. **The following table shows the proposed reductions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Reductions/Increases in Federal Funds</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governor's Targeted Savings from DDS Services</td>
<td>$750,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue 4.25 % payment reduction to Regional Centers and Service Providers</td>
<td>($91,500,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase funds received due to 1915(i) Federal Funds and Money follows the person</td>
<td>($65,000,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuation of Prop. 10 funding</td>
<td>($50,000,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Certification at Porterville Development Center allowing additional Federal Funds</td>
<td>($10,000,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance to be achieved by reducing:</td>
<td>$533,501,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Additional Development Center or Administrative Savings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Increased Transparency and/or Accountability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Implementation of Purchase of Service Standards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What will it potentially take to save $533,501,000?**

If the reductions were not evenly distributed the following table shows how deep these cuts could be to any one part of the service system. (these are simply for illustration purposes)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Services Area</th>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Percentage to achieve $533M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment Services (Work Activity and Supported Employment)</td>
<td>$143,396,000</td>
<td>100% (plus more)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Services</td>
<td>$228,921,000</td>
<td>100% (plus more)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Home Respite Services</td>
<td>$256,773,000</td>
<td>100% (plus more)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Homes</td>
<td>$852,691,000</td>
<td>63% of all group homes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Programs</td>
<td>$786,182,000</td>
<td>68% of all day services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Center Operations</td>
<td>$523,827,000</td>
<td>100% of all Regional Center Operations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How many people could potentially lose their services?**

If the reductions were evenly distributed the following table is an estimate of how many people would lose their services.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Service Area</th>
<th>Potential Budget Reduction</th>
<th>Individuals who could lose their services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group Homes</td>
<td>($106,980,000)</td>
<td>4,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Programs</td>
<td>($ 98,625,000)</td>
<td>11,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Services</td>
<td>($ 28,715,000)</td>
<td>14,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Home Respite Services</td>
<td>($ 32,210,000)</td>
<td>8,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td>($ 94,935,000)</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Services</td>
<td>($ 61,067,000)</td>
<td>27,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TAKE ACTION!
California’s Budget Proposal Will Wipe Out Your Services

How will you cope with 20% fewer services?

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
Families pioneered California’s service delivery system, now is the time for families to try and save it.

1) Call, email or write your legislators. Let them know that cuts to this degree are unacceptable. Some key talking points are included below. Find your representatives by visiting http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html and punching in your zip code. Remember, personal stories and perspectives have the most impact. Tell them how you and your family will be affected if you lose services. Use the talking points below as guidelines to tell your personal story to lawmakers.

2) Look for local events that you can participate in to demonstrate your opposition to these cuts. Demonstrations, marches and rallies are being planned all over California. Come out and be heard. The bigger the crowd, the bigger the impact! Stop by your representatives’ town hall meetings, mobile office hours, breakfasts or other events in their districts too.

3) "Like" CDSI’s Facebook page so that you can stay informed with updates on the budget process and where you can weigh in. CDSI is the educational arm of CDSA that is geared towards families and individuals. Go to http://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Disability-Services-Institute/175652629141825 or contact Amy Wall of CDSA at awall@cal-dsa.org or 916-441-5844 x104.
In Defense of the Lanterman system of Community Services

The Lanterman Act has been widely referred to as the Bill of Rights for Californians with Developmental Disabilities.

Importantly it has also served as our State’s blueprint for converting from State institutionalization to a more enlightened and cost effective model of community-based care.

For children the Lanterman Act drives our policies and funding to support parents and children so that they can remain in the family home –receiving the love and nurturing they need complimented by the publicly funded services they need to overcome their disability challenges.

For adults the Lanterman Act declared our State’s legal as well as moral obligation to provide humane care and treatment for our most fragile and vulnerable people. Public policy and funding was shaped to provide community based treatment, services, supports and mechanisms to insure protective oversight for thousands of men and women living with profound developmental disabilities.

How has this Landmark Legislation Performed for California?

The number of people institutionalized in 1971 exceeded 14,000. There were many people on waiting lists with tens of thousand more people simply unaccounted for. Estimates of the typical life span of an adult living with a developmental disability in 1971 do not exceed 40 years of age.

In 2011 the number of people still residing in State owned and operated institutions is less than 1,700 while our State’s population has more than doubled.

Thanks to the out-reach and early intervention efforts undertaken since the Ronald Reagan Signed the Lanterman Act into Law in 1971 California has now identified most of its children and adults with developmental disabilities. Instead of a State dotted with 19th Century Institutions, California now provides for its most vulnerable people with localized services and supports that keep children with their families’ and provides services and protective oversight for adults within community based residential and day services settings.

The Community based system of services provided by local nonprofit organizations has delivered a successful transition from Institutions to community life for California.

Cost effectiveness is to compare the costs of people served in the remaining State institutions with those with similar disabilities served by local community based nonprofits.

Current cost per person for institutional residents exceeds $300,000 per person

The most expensive service arrangements currently in place in the community are less than half of this amount. But that is misleading. The thousands of children and adults who left institutions over
the years for community settings are now being served at average State costs of 1/6\textsuperscript{th} to 1/10\textsuperscript{th} of the cost of Institutional care.

Most importantly there are tens of thousands of children and adults who were prevented from ever entering State institutional care because of the services available to them and their families in the community.

This system has delivered on cost as well as outcomes!

The State budget intends to dismantle it with absolutely no analysis or plan for its replacement.

There is not a shred of evidence that the coherent safety net of services for children and adults is over funded, or ripe with opportunities for tremendous efficiency savings.

The number for budget reduction is beyond arbitrary, no rational mind could look at how this system has performed for California and propose to deconstruct it by pulling over a billion dollars of its funding over a 24 months while continuing to stretch those community services to accommodate thousands more children each year.
The State of California accepts a responsibility for persons with developmental disabilities and an obligation to them which it must discharge

Lanterman Act Sec. 4501 WIC

You need to know....

Some facts about California’s developmental disabilities system

The Developmental Disabilities system is a Public-Private Partnership

- Most services to people with developmental disabilities are provided through private sector vendors, mostly small and mid-size businesses
- In the East Bay, at least 600 such businesses contract with Regional Center of the East Bay
- These businesses create jobs, from 3 to 350 employees per vendor, many of them employing over 100 individuals.
- Workers at these businesses pay taxes and spend locally, impacting many other businesses
- Many professionals: nurses, psychologists, therapists and others also contract with the regional center to provide services.

Recent Cuts and Cost containment measures have a devastating impact

- A 4.25% cut in payments— which were already inadequate, impacts the quality of services and turnover in staff. Prior rate freezes became permanent.
- Some services for infants have been eliminated. Eligibility for Early Start services was tightened. There are limitations on some services and increased financial impact on parents.
- Several services such as socialization skills, non-medical therapies and camps were suspended or eliminated
- Limitations on respite through statewide standards were implemented. Limitations were imposed on behavioral and supported living services
- Cuts to quality assurance, higher caseload ratios and 4.25% unallocated reduction to regional center operations.

People with developmental disabilities are served throughout a lifetime

- Developmental disabilities, by definition, last a lifetime. This system is unique because services and supports are provided from birth to old age.
- The needs found in each age group are unique. Early childhood, school age, adulthood and aging all have different needs with different related costs. Whereas service emphasis may be preventive in early childhood, supportive in adulthood and ameliorative during aging, they are all needed to assist people with developmental disabilities to live as independent, productive and inclusive lives as possible.
• Most people with developmental disabilities want to be productive. **Employment in real jobs with real wages is a goal** for many people.

**Costs increase as people get older**

• The costs by age group are significantly different because the service system for developmental disabilities must rely on other services offered to the general population.
• Children tend to be served by the school system and thus the average cost of services for a person 3 to 21 years of age (without autism) is $7,078 compared with $22,695 for adults aged 42-61 (without autism). Three times as much!
• When a student becomes an adult, the regional centers become responsible for most services for the individual with associated increase in costs.
• The number of adults served in the developmental disabilities services system grew by 25,566 from 1997-2007, from 69,119 to 94,685. As young people become adults, the costs to the system will rise dramatically.
• As parents age, they become less able to care for their adult children in their home with an associated cost increase to the system.

**There is an autism epidemic:**

• The rate of autism nationally has skyrocketed from one in 2,500 births in the 1970s to 1 in 150 today.
• The number of people with autism in the California DD system has more than quadrupled in the last 10 years, from 8781 in 1997 to 36,952 in 2006.
• Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. Children and adults with autism typically have serious difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, self-care, and leisure or play activities often requiring individualized and intensive supports.
• The increase in autism cannot be explained by a shift in interpretation of diagnostic criteria or by immigration into California.
• Eighty three percent of people diagnosed with autism who are regional center clients are under the age of 22.
• Over 50% of new intakes into the regional center system are people with autism.
• It costs more to serve people with autism than other developmental disabilities. The average cost to serve adults (42 -61 yrs. old) with autism in the community is $36,614 per year compared to $20,633 for those other disabilities. The proportion of adults with autism will continue to escalate as the children who are currently served by schools turn 21.
• The long-range implication of the autism epidemic is a profound and enduring impact on the affected children, their families, public services, the state budget and the overall health status of California citizens.

**Community-based services have saved the State millions of dollars annually**

• The population of State-run developmental centers continues to decline dramatically. Agnews Developmental Center and Sierra Vista Developmental Center have closed recently
• Costs to serve these individuals in the community are significantly higher than average community costs, but they are lower than the cost to serve the same individuals in a State-run facility.
• More and more individuals with significant needs are served in the community in spite of 4.25% rate cuts last year and no cost of living adjustments since 1998.
• California’s per capita spending for people with developmental disabilities ranks 37th in the nation.

The challenges for developmental disabilities service system in the East Bay are great: budget cuts are impacting services, private sector vendors are closing their doors, the number of people diagnosed with autism is growing in epidemic proportions, people served in the system are getting older and thus requiring more services and supports, people with high need who once were served in developmental centers now live in the community, and medical and technological advances have made it possible for many people to survive and live fuller lives in their community. We need your continued support to address these challenges.

*Developed by Area Board 5*
The Governor and The Legislature Have a Mystery Plan for Cutting Services to People With Developmental Disabilities and Their Families. They want the Legislature to approve $750 Million in cuts to the system BEFORE deciding what agencies, services, groups or individuals will be **ELIMINATED** from the system.

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBER WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY **WENT AWAY**?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Governor’s Plan</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Developmental Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agencies providing services to your family member</td>
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</table>
TAKE ACTION NOW!
Contact Your State Senator or Assembly Member
Tell Them to Vote NO on Cuts to Services
Shredding Services and Supports to People with Developmental Disabilities
Cumulative Impact of Budget cuts in the last 5 years

Other Service Systems
- Reduced IHSS Support hours by 3.6%
- 2011 Governor proposes to raise it to 12%
- Onerous requirements for IHSS workers and consumers
- Reduced income security SSI/SSP funds
  (Governor proposes to reduce to Federal minimum)
- Elimination of Adult Medical optional services:
  Dental, Eyeglasses, Hearing Aids, Other Benefits

Regional Center/Community System
- 2011 Governor proposes statewide standards for purchases
  - Changes in eligibility for Early Start
  - Elimination of services to High risk
  - Requirement for use of insurance and co-payments
  - Establish new Prevention Program
- 4.25% payment reduction for regional centers and services
- Family cost participation for services to children
- Higher case load ratios
- Reductions in Quality Assurance
- Extension of Intake and Assessment Timeframes
- Elimination of non-federally mandated Early Start services such as respite for families of infants
- 10% payment reduction for Supported
- Permanent implementation of Prior rate freezes

Changes to Eligibility for Lanterman Act services
- Purchase of services prohibited for:
  Socialization training, camp, non medical therapies

Limitations on Respite – Implementation of standards
- Limitations on Behavioral services
- Restrictions on Supported Living
- Elimination of Program Development Fund
- Limitations on Center Based Services

Prepared by Area Board 5 1/17/11

Key:
- Limitations
- Elimination
- Major funding cuts/ Reductions
- New Program
- New requirements
- 2011 new proposals
Section V
Representative Contact Information
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Senator</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D-7</td>
<td>Bob Soderberg</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bob.soderberg@caleg.gov">bob.soderberg@caleg.gov</a></td>
<td>510-654-4904</td>
<td>510-982-6700</td>
<td>1501 First Street, Suite 200, Oakland, CA 94612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-9</td>
<td>Nancy Skinner</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nancy.skinner@assembly.ca.gov">nancy.skinner@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
<td>916-319-3114</td>
<td>916-409-4010</td>
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Who to Contact & Key Committee Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</th>
<th>SENATE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 3, 2011 – THURSDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY 10, 2011 – THURSDAY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</td>
<td>SENATE BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upon Adjournment of Session (Around 1:00 p.m.) State Capitol – Room 4202</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of session John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Hearings are subject to changes in the date, time and location.*

Write legislators at the capitol using this address:

The Honorable John Doe  
California State Assembly (or Senate)  
State Capitol  
19th and L Streets  
Sacramento, CA 95814

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 MEMBERS</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holly J. Mitchell - Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Mitchell@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Mitchell@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wesley Chesbro</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Chesbro@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Chesbro@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Jeffries</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Jeffries@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Jeffries@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allan R. Mansoor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Mansoor@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Mansoor@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>William W. Monning</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Monning@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Monning@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Blumenfield - Dem. Alternate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Blumenfield@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Blumenfield@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Nielsen - Rep. Alternate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Nielsen@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Nielsen@assembly.ca.gov</a></td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark DeSaulnier</td>
<td><a href="mailto:senator.desaulnier@sen.ca.gov">senator.desaulnier@sen.ca.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Elaine Alquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Emmerson</td>
<td><a href="http://cssrc.us/web/77/contact_us.aspx">http://cssrc.us/web/77/contact_us.aspx</a></td>
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