

Quick Facts

1. More than 245,000 people with developmental disabilities receive community support services in the State of California.
2. Services include Day Program Activities, Residential Assistance, In-Home Respite Services, Supported Living, Supported Employment, Work Activity Programs, Transportation, and many others.
3. These community based services SAVE the State money, by keeping people with developmental disabilities out of expensive state-run institutions. Housing people in state-run developmental centers costs nearly 3x times the amount it costs the state to serve that same person in the community.
4. These life-saving community-based services are in jeopardy, putting people with developmental disabilities at serious risk. The State of California is preparing to slash another \$100 million in support programs as part of the December 2011 trigger budget cuts.
5. The State is ignoring warnings from its own experts. More than a decade ago, the Department of Developmental Services warned that inadequate funding would “*destabilize the service delivery system,*” perpetuate the “*continued and rapid deterioration of service delivery,*” and create a “**significant risk to the health, safety, and well-being of consumers.**” That warning is now coming true.
6. Despite this warning, the State continues to underfund the system. In 2003, the State froze reimbursement rates paid to providers and most rates have effectively remained the same – or even decreased - despite substantial spikes in operating costs and a major increase in the number of people served.
7. In 2009, the State cut reimbursement rates by 3 percent, and later increased that cut to 4.25 percent. Those cuts remain in effect today.
8. In July 2009, the State also cut the number of service provider days by an additional 14 days a year, further reducing available services.
9. The rate cuts and freezes threaten the financial solvency of service providers, decreasing access to quality care, endangering people with developmental disabilities and increasing the cost of long-term care for those who will need to be institutionalized.
10. The rate cuts and freezes violate Federal law because the state has not obtained the required federal approvals, and has not adequately considered the detrimental and discriminatory impacts of inadequate funding on the availability and quality of services.