

TAKE ACTION!

California's Budget Proposal Will Wipe Out Your Services

The Governor's 2011-12 budget proposes a staggering systemwide reduction of \$750 million from the Department of Developmental Services. This includes \$533.5 million in new cuts to community-based services through implementation of statewide standards to limit services. These cuts will dismantle the current system, but there are no details on the \$533.5million in "savings" for us to refute! **This means 20% of all services provided to people with developmental disabilities will disappear, we just don't know how.**

***How will you cope with 20% fewer services?
What if the services you use most were eliminated completely?***

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. 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, or detail how previous cuts have already impacted you and stress that you can't take any more. Some talking points are included below to help you get a letter started.
- 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.

TALKING POINTS:

- A cut this big and without detail, to a department that serves some of California's most vulnerable residents, is unconscionable.
- Transparency and accountability have flown out the window with this budget. Deciding how big a cut to make with no specifics outlined is irresponsible.
- 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.



Don't Let Politicians Take A Wrecking Ball to Your Services!

Options for Local Activities:

- 1) **The easiest way to register your opposition is to call, write a letter, visit or email your local Legislators.** Talk with City Council members and County Supervisors too - encourage them to let Legislators know that their community needs and wants to protect the services you use.
- 2) **Plan or participate in a local event.** Build a crowd. Make signs. Make local media aware of your event. Use the message points provided by CDSA to maintain consistency and effectively deliver the message that these proposed cuts are simply too drastic.
 - a. Hold a rally at your Legislator's district office.
 - b. A protest at City Hall or other municipal building.
 - c. Host a legislative breakfast.
 - d. A walk or march from one key location to another.
 - e. Attend one of your Legislator's in-district events where they listen to constituents.
- 3) **Use Your Social Networks!**
 - a. **On your Facebook page** - Post your protest to the proposed budget cuts and encourage others to let Legislators know that the cuts are simply too big.
 - b. **On your Legislator's Facebook page** – Post a comment or video telling them not to support such drastic cuts to DDS.
 - c. **On YouTube** – Post a video explaining how you will be affected and share it with others via Facebook, Twitter and any other social networking websites you use.
 - d. **Visit CDSI's Facebook page** at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Disability-Services-Institute/175652629141825> “Like” our page to get updates and additional information.
- 4) **Participate in the Legislative Committee process.** Participate in hearings, write letters to and call key members. Your personal stories and participation are a vital part of making Legislators understand who they will be hurting with these cuts. See the attached page for Legislative committee and contact information.

Pointers for Talking With the Media:

- Tell your personal story.
- There is no such thing as “off the record.”
- Focus on making one or two key points.
- Remember, you will be edited. Include short “soundbites” that deliver your message. Be concise.
- Reporters are often on deadline, so return calls or emails promptly.
- Don't let the interviewer derail you. Stick to your points.
- Don't speculate, be hostile or say “no comment.” Redirect back to your key messages.

Who to Contact & Key Committee Meetings

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	SENATE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
<p><u>FEBRUARY 3, 2011 – THURSDAY</u> ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</p> <p>Upon Adjournment of Session (Around 1:00 p.m.) State Capitol – Room 4202</p>	<p><u>FEBRUARY 10, 2011 – THURSDAY</u> SENATE BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 3 ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</p> <p>9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of session John L. Burton Hearing Room (4203)</p>
<p>*Hearings are subject to changes in the date, time and location.</p>	

Write legislators at the capitol using this address:

The Honorable *John Doe*
 California State Assembly (or *Senate*)
 State Capitol
 10th and L Streets
 Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #1 MEMBERS

Name	Dist.	Phone	Email Address
Holly J. Mitchell - Chair	D-47	(916) 319-2047	Assemblymember.Mitchell@assembly.ca.gov
Wesley Chesbro	D-1	(916) 319-2001	Assemblymember.Chesbro@assembly.ca.gov
Kevin Jeffries	R-66	(916) 319-2066	Assemblymember.Jeffries@assembly.ca.gov
Allan R. Mansoor	R-68	(916) 319-2068	Assemblymember.Mansoor@assembly.ca.gov
William W. Monning	D-27	(916) 319-2027	Assemblymember.Monning@assembly.ca.gov
Bob Blumenfield - Dem. Alternate	D-40	(916) 319-2040	Assemblymember.Blumenfield@assembly.ca.gov
Jim Nielsen - Rep. Alternate	R-2	(916) 319-2002	Assemblymember.Nielsen@assembly.ca.gov

SENATE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #3 MEMBERS

Mark DeSaulnier	D-07	(916) 651-4007	senator.desaulnier@sen.ca.gov
Elaine Alquist	D-13	(916) 651-4013	senator.alquist@sen.ca.gov
Bill Emerson	R-37	(916) 651-4037	http://cssrc.us/web/37/contact_us.aspx

Date

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