



*Families for Families*

## BUDGET FACTS

Governor Malloy has proposed a mixed bag budget for people with intellectual & developmental disabilities (I/DD). On the one hand, he asked legislators to give DDS \$3.8 million for system change, increasing to stability for community providers and providing some relief for the waiting list families, but he has also recommended some very drastic cuts:

- **CUT ALL DAY & EMPLOYMENT FUNDING FOR NEW GRADUATES FOR TWO YEARS!**
- **CUT \$3.7 million in each year from the Behavioral Services Program for two years.**
- **CUT \$370,000 each year to Family Support Grants for two years.**

Minimal gains to address a waiting list that has been neglected for years, should not come at the expense of other community supports. *Legislators have a clear choice: cut services & jobs for people in your own communities or cut overtime & waste at DDS. IT'S THAT SIMPLE!*

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### **IN OUR NEW BUDGETARY REALITY, A DECISION TO PERMIT WASTE TO CONTINUE IS A DECISION TO DENY SERVICES!**

**FACT:** Legislators can save DDS community supports simply by reducing overtime and waste at DDS facilities.

- DDS facilities are overstaffed and yet last year DDS spent \$45 million in overtime!
- At Southbury Training School alone, eliminating unnecessary direct care staff overtime would save approximately \$6.5 million and eliminating overtime for non-direct care staff would bring the total to over \$8 million!
- As the number of people being served at DDS facilities decreases, costs continue to rise. Since 2014, the number of STS residents decreased by 23% but total employee compensation decreased by only 8%. ***Last year, DDS spent \$96 million dollars to serve less than 300 people at Southbury Training School!***

**FACT:** Shifting services to community providers would save the state \$1.24 billion over the next five years, ensuring more people can be served and more resources can be re-invested into accessible community services.

**FACT:** If proposed cuts to community providers are implemented, **providers will be forced to cut services and jobs in the communities your legislator represents.** 60% of providers would need to eliminate programs, 80% would lay off staff and 31% percent would stop serving new people. The ripple effect of these cuts is devastating to the communities your legislators serve.

**We need ask legislators to put an end to a flawed system that starves resources for people in the community, while funding excess, overtime and waste at state facilities!**

## **STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH I/DD**

Legislators on the Appropriations committee will put out a budget by the end of this month. CT is currently facing a staggering \$1.7 billion-dollar deficit and the outlook for the coming years is not any better. Legislators will be faced with tough choices. *Numbers count to legislators. If we don't want budget cuts aimed at people with I/DD, then ALL of us who need services and ALL of us who care need to speak up loudly and often.*

### **1. Get to know your legislator: Write a letter & share your story.**

If we want legislators to make your services and your jobs a priority, they need to understand the impact the cuts will have on people in their communities. *Your goal should be to get on a first name basis with all your legislators.*

Not sure who your legislators are? Find them here:

[www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp](http://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp) or just google "CT Find Your Legislator"

What to include in your letter:

Name

Street Address, Town

The issue you are writing about.

The name and age of your loved one with I/DD.

What funding/supports if any, do you currently have? What do those supports mean to your loved one with I/DD

and your family?

How would losing those supports impact your family?

Are you on a DDS waiting list for supports?

How does not having the supports you need impact your family?

What are your concerns/fears for the future for your loved one with I/DD?

What can legislators do to help your family?

You might also wish to add Arc Connecticut Budget Facts (other side)

### **2. Write Letters the Editor in local newspapers or in larger publications.**

Hartford Courant: [www.courant.com/opinion/hc-send-us-a-letter-20140911-htmstory.html](http://www.courant.com/opinion/hc-send-us-a-letter-20140911-htmstory.html)

CT Mirror: [www.ctviewpoints.org/submit/](http://www.ctviewpoints.org/submit/)

New Haven Register: [letters@nhregister.com](mailto:letters@nhregister.com)

Waterbury Republican American: [www.rep-am.com/about-us/contact-us/letters-to-the-editor/](http://www.rep-am.com/about-us/contact-us/letters-to-the-editor/)

New London Day: [www.theday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=/static/form\\_letters.pbs](http://www.theday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/misc?url=/static/form_letters.pbs)

Stamford Advocate: [Letters.advocate@scni.com](mailto:Letters.advocate@scni.com)

Norwich Bulletin: [letters@norwichbulletin.com](mailto:letters@norwichbulletin.com)

Danbury News Times: [Letters@newstimes.com](mailto:Letters@newstimes.com)

The Journal Inquirer: [www.journalinquirer.com/site/forms/online\\_services/letter/](http://www.journalinquirer.com/site/forms/online_services/letter/)

### **3. Sign up for The Arc Connecticut email information & BUDGET ACTION ALERTS by contacting [sjacovino@thearcct.org](mailto:sjacovino@thearcct.org).**

### **4. Share this information with others and encourage them to SPEAK UP & SPEAK OUT as well!**

