



State of Connecticut
Department of Rehabilitation Services
BUREAU OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

July 6, 2017

STAR
182 Wolfpit Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851

Dear STAR,

As you may know the state of Connecticut has not adopted a budget for the fiscal year that began on July 1, and as a result the Governor has issued an executive order to allow limited functions of government to continue. In order to live within the extremely limited resources available in this no-budget environment, state agencies are required to cancel, reduce, and renegotiate their contracts, grant agreements, and other agreements, including the agreement that we have with you.

The Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) has had to make difficult program decisions, and we are prioritizing support of individuals in competitive, integrated settings as defined by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Therefore, any consumers currently being supported in non-competitive placements will no longer be funded effective August 1, 2017.

This letter also serves as notice that July 31, 2017 shall be the last day that the Employment Opportunities Program (EOP) can be funded at its current level. Effective this date, the number of hours of support available to individual consumers through EOP will be limited to up to three (3) hours per month.

All EOP Consumers impacted by the scope of service change and reduction will receive a letter notifying them of such. They will also be provided the contact information for a BRS Counselor who will be tasked with evaluating their level of need for continued services and potential for alternative competitive placement if necessary. We ask that you please join us in our endeavor to assist our Consumers at this very difficult time by promptly providing requested information and by encouraging consumers to reach out to their assigned Counselor.

Please do not take this as a reflection on the quality or significance of the services that you provide to the state. Many worthwhile and valuable activities will be curtailed until we have an appropriated budget, passed by the legislature, which provides funding for them.

While the state faces real budget problems which will ultimately require permanent reductions in state spending in many areas, many of the cuts that are necessitated by no budget can be reversed once the legislature adopts any reasonable budget. You should always feel free to communicate with your elected representatives in the legislature about your concerns with respect to the budget.

Thank you for your patience and partnership as we work through this difficult period.

Sincerely,

David Doukas
Director, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services

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