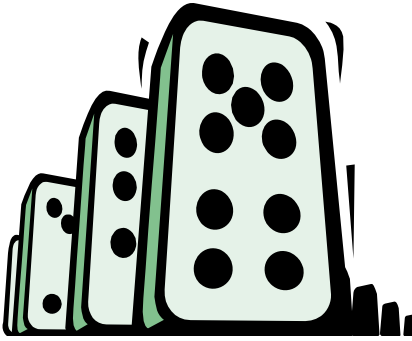


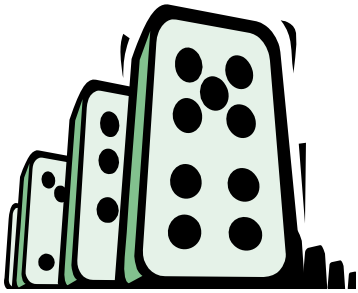
## **BUDGET TALKING POINTS:**



1029 J Street, Suite 380  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-441-5844  
Fax: 916-441-2804  
[www.cal-dsa.org](http://www.cal-dsa.org)

### **The Governor's 2011-12 Budget Will Topple Our Service Delivery System!**

- **A \$750 million cut represents over 20% of the entire DD budget for community services.** Factor in federal dollars that will be put at risk and you are looking at closer to \$1 billion in cuts.
  - Not only will California walk away from matching funds, but cuts of this magnitude and the resulting limits to consumer choice would violate federal rules, eliminating more federal dollars.
- **The community-based service system and providers cannot survive a 20% cut on top of the 10% in cuts already absorbed in the previous two budget years.**
- **A cut this big and without detail, to a department that serves some of California's most vulnerable residents, is unconscionable.**
- **There is no analysis of what a cut of this size would do to local community service provider agencies** - no analysis of the impact on the availability of services in the short term or in the long term. How quickly can any system shrink by one fifth and maintain continuity?
- **DDS is not a credible source of information.** DDS has been found to have significant administrative and management deficiencies by the California State Auditor, on top of a proven track record of incorrect assumptions that have crippled services.
- **Cuts of this magnitude will result in thousands of lost jobs.** Not only will service providers have to lay off or severely reduce employee benefits, people with disabilities that our organizations support will lose their jobs too.
- **This budget proposal effectively dismantles the Lanterman Act,** severely limiting opportunities and choices for persons with developmental disabilities who live and work in their communities.
- **20% is an un-survivable number! The alternatives are ugly** – should we:
  - Eliminate services for 48,000 persons?
  - Move tens of thousands of people from one program to another without their input?
  - Create waiting lists for even the most basic services?
  - Ask aging parents to now provide 24-hour care for their adult children with no work or day program and drastically reduced respite hours?
  - Move individuals back into state owned institutions at three times the cost of life in the community?



# Don't Let Politicians Destroy Your Organization!



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## Options for Local Activities:

- 1) **The easiest way to register your opposition is to call, write a letter, email or visit your local legislator.** Encourage your local elected officials to do the same. Talk with City Council members or County Supervisors and encourage them to let Legislators know that their community needs and wants to protect the services you provide. Without your organization, persons with disabilities will rely on local government resources.
- 2) **Encourage your staff, families and friends to weigh in with policymakers. Pass on the tools we're providing to help them do so.** We need as many voices as possible to be heard!
- 3) **Participate in the Legislative Committee process.** Participate in hearings, email and call key members, your personal stories and participation are key to making Legislators understand who they will be hurting with these cuts.
- 4) **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 our message.
  - a. Hold a rally at your Legislator's district office.
  - b. Arrange a protest at City Hall or other municipal building.
  - c. Host a legislative breakfast or other event inviting legislators.
  - d. Organize a walk or march from one key location to another.
- 5) **Use Social Media**
  - a. **"Like" CDSI's Facebook page** at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/California-Disability-Services-Institute/175652629141825> for updates. Post against the proposed budget cuts on your Facebook page and encourage others to let Legislators know that the cuts are simply too big. Share like-minded posts.
  - b. **Post on your legislators' Facebook page**, letting them know that they cannot support such drastic cuts to DDS.
  - c. **Post a video on YouTube** to explain how you will be affected and share it with others via Facebook, Twitter or other social networking websites.

## Pointers for Talking With the Media:

- Tell your personal story.
- There is no such thing as "off the record."
- Focus on making one or 2 key points.
- Be concise. Include short "soundbites" that deliver your message.
- Reporters are often on deadline, 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.

If you need assistance with your message, guidance on how to deliver your concerns, want materials, or have questions, please call Amy Wall at 916-441-5844 x104 or email [awall@cal-dsa.org](mailto:awall@cal-dsa.org).

## SENATE BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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## ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Brian Nestande	R-64	4139	(916) 319-2164	(916) 319-2064	<a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Nestande@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Nestande@assembly.ca.gov</a>
Sandr�e R. Swanson	D-16	6012	(916) 319-2116	(916) 319-2016	<a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Swanson@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Swanson@assembly.ca.gov</a>
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Donald P. Wagner	R-70	4153	(916) 319-2170	(916) 319-2070	<a href="mailto:Assemblymember.Wagner@assembly.ca.gov">Assemblymember.Wagner@assembly.ca.gov</a>

*(On your letterhead)*

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: Proposed Cuts to the Dept. of Developmental Services Budget

Dear Senator DeSaulnier:

As a nonprofit, community-based organization that provides services to persons with developmental disabilities in California, I am writing to let you know that the proposed \$750 million in cuts to DDS's budget, with \$533.5 million coming from as yet undetermined cuts, is simply catastrophic to providers and the people we serve. After sustaining significant cuts for the past three years on top of a decade long rate freeze, my organization cannot absorb any more cuts. This budget will force us to close programs, cut jobs, eliminate health care and other benefits to our employees, and we will have to seriously consider shutting our doors all together.

XXXXXX has been serving the community of XXXXXX for more than XX years. We provide services that range from XXXX to XXXX. Our families count on us to provide these services and our clients need the programs and opportunities we make available to them.

Proceeding with the proposed cuts to this degree will jeopardize the entire service delivery system as California knows it. There is no short term or long term analysis of what cuts to the tune of \$533.5 million would do local community-based organizations like mine. The availability of the services we provide and that similar organizations provide statewide will be severely threatened. Without us, who will provide these key services?

I urge you to carefully reconsider this proposed budget action and look for cuts elsewhere, not from community-based providers, but instead from administrative or Developmental Center functions. Keep cuts as far away from the individuals served as possible and maintain California's ability to fulfill its obligations under the Lanterman Act.

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