



Press Statement

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Trigger Cuts Target Californians with Developmental Disabilities

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California’s community of disability services providers and the families they serve are deeply troubled by today’s announcement confirming the implementation of the mid-year trigger cuts that were used to “balance” the budget.

When the Governor and the Legislature approved the trigger cuts, they chose to put people with developmental disabilities among the very first group to be targeted. The \$100 million budget cut slated for the Department of Developmental services will compound the devastating impacts of multiple ongoing cuts to Californians with developmental and intellectual disabilities including autism, mental retardation, epilepsy and cerebral palsy.

“Community-based services save the state money and allow people with developmental disabilities to live and work in their communities, yet funding for these services consistently winds up on the chopping block,” stated Chris Rice, Executive Director of the California Disability Services Association (CDSA). “A decade of rate freezes, program closures and budget cuts have destroyed many community-based service programs, leaving more than 240,000 Californians with developmental disabilities at risk,” Rice explained.

Without community- based supports and services, many individuals with developmental disabilities (some of California’s most vulnerable citizens) will be forced into nursing homes or state institutions at up to three times the cost to the state.

“How can the State claim to have appropriate priorities, yet still determine that people with developmental and intellectual disabilities can be sacrificed? The state is choosing to keep old, outdated and expensive state-run institutions open at a cost of over \$340,000 per person annually, when those same people can be served in their community for an average cost of about \$100,000 per year. It is simply not sustainable to keep reducing community-based, direct care options for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities,” closed Rice.

CDSA is a statewide trade association representing 100 community-based organizations that help persons with developmental disabilities throughout California find meaningful employment, live independently, and participate in a broad range of activities. For more information about CDSA and the services our member organizations provide, visit www.cal-dsa.org.